

# **10 PM Current Affairs Quiz Monthly Compilation**

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*For UPSC CSE Prelims*

**April, 2024**

## 10 PM MCQs Compilation April 2024

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## Art & Culture and Medieval History

**Q.1) The 'Bharat Ratna Award' is presented for:**

- a) Military service
- b) Exceptional service/performance in any field
- c) Outstanding achievements in business
- d) Political leadership

**Q.2) Which one of the following linguistic family do the 'Kuki-Zo and Meitei' people's languages belong to?**

- a) Indo-European
- b) Dravidian
- c) Austroasiatic
- d) Tibeto-Burman

**Q.3) Which one of the following is a unique feature of the Rakhigarhi site compared to other Indus Valley Civilization sites?**

- a) It has a well-preserved palace complex.
- b) It is larger in size compared to other sites.
- c) Its extensive use of bronze tools.
- d) It has yielded a significantly different style of pottery.

**Q.4) Consider the following pairs:**

**Festivals-----States**

- 1. Ugadi-----Telangana
- 2. Gudi Padwa-----Maharashtra
- 3. Puthandu-----Karnataka

**Which of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.5) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Raja Jayadhwaj Singha was the founder of the Ahom dynasty.
- 2. The Ahom tribes are known for their contributions to Assamese culture.
- 3. The battle of Saraighat was fought between the Ahom and the Mughals.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

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**Q.6) Consider the following statements:**

1. Thrissur Pooram Festival is celebrated in Tamil Nadu.
2. Boat race is the main highlight of the Thrissur Pooram Festival.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.7) Which one of the following is unique about the "Shompen tribe's" lifestyle compared to other tribal communities in India?**

- a) They are primarily hunter-gatherers.
- b) They practice settled agriculture.
- c) They are nomadic herders.
- d) They live in urban areas.

**Q.8) The 'Kashan style' is associated with which one of the following?**

- a) Modern furniture design
- b) Persian rugs
- c) Indian miniature paintings
- d) Ancient Egyptian pottery

**Q.9) The Yangli festival is observed by which one of the following tribal communities?**

- a) Bhil
- b) Gond
- c) Tiwa
- d) Mizo

### Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (d)	3 - (b)	4 - (a)	5 - (b)	6 - (d)	7 - (a)	8 - (b)	9 - (c)
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### Answers & Explanations

**1. Correct Answer is (B)**

- The Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award in India, presented for exceptional service or performance in any field. It recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the country in various disciplines such as art, literature, science, public service, and sports.

**Source:** [The Hindu](#)

**2. Correct Answer is (D)**

- The Tibeto-Burman family is a subgroup of the larger Sino-Tibetan language family. The Kuki-Zo languages are part of the Kuki-Chin-Naga subgroup within the Tibeto-Burman family. Meitei

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language, also known as Manipuri, is another member of the Tibeto-Burman family. Both Kuki-Zo and Meitei languages are spoken primarily in the northeastern region of India, including the states of Manipur and Nagaland, as well as in some neighboring areas of Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 3. Correct Answer is (B)

- Rakhigarhi, located in the modern-day Indian state of Haryana, is one of the largest and most significant sites of the Indus Valley Civilization. Recent archaeological research and discoveries at Rakhigarhi have indicated that the site is larger in size compared to many other sites of the civilization, providing valuable insights into the complexity of the Indus Valley Civilization's urban planning and organization. Excavations have revealed that the ancient city of Rakhigarhi was significantly larger than other major Indus Valley cities, including Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. This indicates a potentially more extensive and complex urban society.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 4. Correct Answer is (A)

- Ugadi: Ugadi is the New Year's Day festival celebrated in the Indian states of Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.
- Gudi Padwa: Gudi Padwa is a springtime festival that marks the traditional New Year for Marathi and Konkani Hindus, primarily celebrated in the state of Maharashtra, India.
- Puthandu: Puthandu, also known as Tamil New Year, is the first day of the Tamil calendar, typically falling on April 13th or 14th. It is celebrated in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, and Sri Lanka, as well as by Tamil communities worldwide.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Swargadeo Sukapha, also known as Chaolung Siu-Ka-Pha, was the founder of the Ahom dynasty in present-day Assam, India. He established the dynasty in 1228, ruling until his death in 1268. He came from China.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Ahoms, who ruled Assam for nearly 600 years, significantly influenced Assamese culture, language, and architecture. They brought new military strategies, promoted religious harmony, and encouraged cultural exchanges, leaving a lasting impact on the region. The Battle of Saraighat was fought in 1671 between the Ahom Kingdom, led by Lachit Borphukan, and the Mughal Empire. The Ahoms emerged victorious, which is considered a significant event in Assamese history as it halted the Mughal expansion into Assam.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Thrissur Pooram Festival is celebrated in Thrissur, Kerala. Thrissur Pooram Festival is known for its spectacular fireworks display, along with other cultural and religious events. The main events include the grand procession of caparisoned elephants, traditional percussion ensembles, and the "Kudamattam" ceremony involving the exchange of colorful parasols.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 7. Correct Answer is (A)



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- The Shompen tribe, primarily inhabiting the Great Nicobar Island in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands territory, maintains a unique lifestyle compared to many other tribal communities in India. They are primarily hunter-gatherers, relying on hunting, fishing, and collecting forest resources for their livelihood. It is one of the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) in the country. Recently, for the first time, members of the Shompen, took part in the election process by casting their votes in the Andaman and Nicobar Lok Sabha constituency.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 8. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Kashan style is associated with Persian rugs, which are renowned for their beauty, craftsmanship, and intricate designs. Kashan rugs typically feature a central medallion pattern, floral motifs, and intricate details, with a palette dominated by rich reds and blues. They are made from high-quality wool or silk, and the exceptional weaving techniques result in durable and luxurious pieces. Kashan style, which originated in Iran, has also influenced the craftsmanship of Kashmiri carpets in the Kashmir region of India. The Kashmiri artisans adopted and adapted the techniques and designs from Kashan, creating a unique blend of Persian and Indian influences in their carpets.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 9. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Tiwa community, primarily found in the Indian states of Assam and Meghalaya, celebrates the Yangli festival, also known as Lakshmi Puja. This festival is related to agriculture, which is the primary source of income for the Tiwas. During Yangli, the community performs traditional dances and offers prayers for a successful harvest, seeking protection for their crops from pests and natural calamities.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Modern Indian History

### Q.1) The 'Vaikom Satyagraha' is considered significant because:

- a) It was the first major Satyagraha led by Mahatma Gandhi.
- b) It highlighted the issue of caste discrimination in Kerala.
- c) It directly led to the abolition of the caste system in India.
- d) It marked the beginning of the non-violent independence movement.

### Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. Ambedkar idealized village life as self-reliant, equitable, and just, advocating for the decentralization of power to villages through Gram Swaraj.
2. Ambedkar encouraged Dalits to live in villages because he believed it could help them escape from the caste system.

### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

## Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (d)
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### Answers & Explanations

#### 1. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Vaikom Satyagraha is considered significant because it highlighted the issue of caste discrimination in Kerala. Although this Satyagraha was not led by Mahatma Gandhi, it was inspired by the principles of non-violent civil disobedience that he championed. The movement aimed to end discrimination against lower-caste Hindus by granting them access to public roads around the Vaikom Mahadeva Temple in the princely state of Travancore. The protestors, under the guidance of prominent leaders such as T. K. Madhavan, K. Kelappan, K. P. Kesava Menon, and George Joseph, along with E. V. Ramasamy Periyar, employed peaceful means of resistance like marches, picketing, and demonstrations.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

#### 2. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Mahatma Gandhi advocated for village self-reliance and decentralization of power through his concept of Gram Swaraj (village self-governance). However, B. R. Ambedkar held a contrasting view on village life. He believed that villages in India were marked by social and economic inequalities, particularly due to the prevalence of the caste system. Ambedkar encouraged Dalits to move away from villages and embrace urbanization and industrialization as a means to escape the rigid caste system. He believed that cities offered better opportunities for education, employment, and social mobility, allowing Dalits to overcome the oppressive social structure in villages.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Geography

**Q.1) Which one of the following is likely the benefit of Geographical Indication (GI) tag to the consumers?**

- The tag guarantees the product is the cheapest in the market.
- It ensures the product comes from a specific region known for its quality.
- It offers a wider variety of the product to choose from.
- The tag allows for easier copying of the product by other producers.

**Q.2) With reference to the Katchatheevu Island, consider the following statements:**

- It is located in the Palk Strait.
- It is not suited for permanent settlement as there is no source of drinking water on the island.
- In 1974, India and Sri Lanka signed a maritime agreement that ceded Katchatheevu Island to Sri Lanka.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

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**Q.3) Venezuela shares borders with which of the following countries?**

- a) Brazil, Colombia, and Guyana
- b) Argentina, Chile, and Bolivia
- c) Mexico, Belize, and Guatemala
- d) Peru, Ecuador, and Suriname

**Q.4) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** Weather patterns around the world can be affected by variations in the Pacific Ocean's temperature and wind patterns caused by the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO).

**Statement-II:** The Pacific Ocean covers almost a third of the earth.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Q.5) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) declares a heat wave if the maximum temperature of a weather station reaches at least 40 degrees C in the plains and at least 30 degrees C in hilly regions.
- 2. The wet bulb temperature is the highest temperature to which a surface can be cooled by water evaporating from it.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.6) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The domestic steel sector accounts for 12% of India's greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2. Direct Reduced Iron (DRI), also known as sponge iron, refers to iron produced by directly reducing iron ore into solid-state iron without melting it.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.7) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Volcanic vortex rings are formed due to the interaction of volcanic ash with magnetic fields in the Earth's atmosphere.
- 2. Mt. Etna in Italy is known for its occasional volcanic vortex rings.
- 3. Stratovolcanoes are often associated with the generation of volcanic vortex rings.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None



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**Q.8) The 'Port of Baltimore' is located on which one of the following rivers?**

- a) Potomac River
- b) Arkansas River
- c) Susquehanna River
- d) Patapsco River

**Q.9) During a total solar eclipse, the observer witness darkness because:**

- a) The Earth casts its shadow on the Sun.
- b) The Moon completely blocks the Sun's light from reaching the observer.
- c) The Sun's temperature drops significantly during the eclipse.
- d) The Earth's atmosphere refracts all sunlight away from the observer.

**Q.10) The Hormuz Strait is a strategically important waterway located between:**

- a) Iran and Saudi Arabia
- b) Oman and Yemen
- c) Iran and Oman
- d) United Arab Emirates and Qatar

**Q.11) The 'Ural Mountains' running from north-south, separates:**

- a) Eastern Europe and Western Asia
- b) Northern Europe and Southern Europe
- c) Central Asia and South Asia
- d) Western Europe and Eastern Europe

**Q.12) The Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) primarily measures which one of the following?**

- a) Sea surface temperature anomalies in the Pacific Ocean
- b) Atmospheric pressure differentials across ocean basins
- c) Ocean salinity levels in the Atlantic Ocean
- d) Wave heights in the Indian Ocean

**Q.13) The McMahon Line, a disputed boundary claimed by India, forms part of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in which one of the following sectors?**

- a) Eastern Sector
- b) Middle Sector
- c) Western Sector
- d) Southern Sector

**Q.14) Consider the following statements:**

1. Cuba is the world's leading producer of cobalt.
2. Copper is used in power cables, wind turbines, electric vehicles and solar panels, and is the key material for energy transition.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.15) Consider the following countries:**

1. Bahrain
2. Kyrgyzstan
3. Cyprus
4. Iran
5. Turkmenistan
6. Jordan
7. Lebanon

**How many of the above countries are part of the West Asia?**

- a) Only four
- b) Only five
- c) Only six
- d) All seven

**Q.16) With reference to the country Ecuador, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. It is a country in northwestern South America.
2. Atlantic Ocean borders Ecuador to the west.
3. The Equator passes through the middle of Ecuador.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

**Q.17) The Golan Heights is a plateau bordering which one of the following bodies of water to the west?**

- a) Mediterranean Sea
- b) Red Sea
- c) Sea of Galilee
- d) Dead Sea

**Q.18) Both El Nino and La Nina can influence global agricultural production. In which one of the following ways can La Nina disrupt agricultural activities in Southeast Asia?**

- a) Causing more frequent and intense droughts.
- b) Leading to widespread wildfires due to extreme heat.
- c) Bringing longer periods of heavy rainfall and flooding.
- d) Generating erratic weather patterns with alternating hot and cold spells.

**Q.19) Consider the following statements:**

1. Hydrocarbons primarily exist as natural gas, coal, crude oil, and petroleum within subterranean rock formations.
2. In the rocks, the primary source of hydrocarbons is asphalt, which are lumps of organic matter.
3. If a rock formation is highly porous, it could hold a larger quantity of hydrocarbons.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

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**Q.20) A large meander bend in a floodplain is about to be cut off by the river's erosive action. This process will most likely create:**

- a) An oxbow lake
- b) A levee
- c) A delta
- d) An alluvial fan

**Q.21) Which one of the following best describes the characteristic of 'torrential rains?'**

- a) Consistent rainfall throughout the day
- b) Gradual increase in rainfall intensity over time
- c) Sudden and significant accumulation of precipitation
- d) Periods of rain alternating with dry spells

**Q.22) Consider the following statements:**

1. A lunar eclipse can be seen from anywhere on Earth, while a solar eclipse can only be seen from a limited part of the Earth.
2. A total lunar eclipse last longer than a total solar eclipse because the moon moves faster than the Earth's shadow.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.23) The term "monsoon shock" refers to:**

- a) A sudden drop in temperature during the monsoon season
- b) Unexpected variations in monsoon rainfall causing adverse impacts
- c) Increased humidity levels during the monsoon season
- d) Strong winds accompanying monsoon rains

**Q.24) Consider the following statements:**

1. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the definition of a heatwave depends on the physiography of regions.
2. A heatwave's severity is determined by its departure from normal temperature.
3. Heat Action Plans (HAPs) are strategies designed to reduce the negative effects of heatwaves.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.25) The 'Taiwan Strait' is a strategically important waterway due to:**

- a) Abundant natural resources
- b) Heavy commercial shipping traffic
- c) Lack of significant military presence
- d) Presence of unique marine ecosystems

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**Q.26) Which one of the following types of volcanoes is characterized by alternating layers of lava flows, ash, and volcanic rocks?**

- a) Stratovolcano
- b) Cinder cone volcano
- c) Shield volcano
- d) Caldera

**Q.27) Consider the following statements:**

1. The demographic dividend means the chance for more economic growth when there are more people of working age compared to those who are not working age.
2. Countries with a high dependency ratio usually experience demographic dividend due to increased government spending on social welfare programs.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.28) In which one of the following ways, the particles used in cloud seeding promote precipitation?**

- a) They absorb heat, causing the air to rise and condense into water droplets.
- b) They act as ice nuclei, providing surfaces for water vapor to condense and freeze, forming snowflakes or hail.
- c) They attract lightning strikes, which trigger rainfall.
- d) They change the electrical properties of clouds, influencing precipitation patterns.

**Q.29) Consider the following statements regarding the recently found fossils of 'Vasuki Indicus snake':**

1. The snake likely existed in Middle Eocene period.
2. It is a member of the extinct Colubridae snake family.
3. It likely had a cylindrical body suggesting a strong and powerful build.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.30) Which one of the following bodies of water surrounds Hainan Province in China?**

- a) Yellow Sea
- b) South China Sea
- c) East China Sea
- d) Sea of Japan

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**Q.31) Consider the following statements:**

1. India has access to only 4% of the world's freshwater resources.
2. India is the largest user of groundwater globally.
3. Water is a key component of the world's clean energy transition.
4. Rivers are the primary source of soil moisture.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2 and 4 only
- c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- d) 3 and 4 only

**Q.32) Consider the following statements:**

1. Taiwan was formed at the convergence of the Philippine and Eurasian plates.
2. According to the theory of plate tectonics, the lithosphere is divided into 15 major plates that constantly move relative to each other.
3. The occurrence of foreshocks is a reliable method for predicting the timing of a main earthquake.
4. Magnetic fields in the Earth's core are the primary mechanism responsible for the movement of tectonic plates that leads to earthquakes.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.33) Consider the following pairs:**

**Glacial Lake Types-----Formation Process**

1. Moraine-dammed Lake----Formed by the melting of glaciers blocking valleys.
2. Erosional lake-----Created by the accumulation of debris carried by glaciers.
3. Ice-dammed Lake-----Occurs when water is trapped behind a natural dam of rocks and sediment.

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) All three pairs
- d) None of the pairs

**Q.34) The 'English Channel' separates which of the following two countries?**

- a) France and Spain
- b) England and Ireland
- c) England and France
- d) Wales and Scotland

**Q.35) Which one of the following processes is primarily responsible for lowering the wet-bulb temperature?**

- a) Convection
- b) Radiation
- c) Evaporation
- d) Condensation



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**Q.36) Consider the following pairs:**

**Water Bodies-----Specifications**

1. Red Sea-----connects the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean through the Suez Canal.
2. Strait of Hormuz-----connects the Atlantic Ocean with West African countries.
3. Gulf of Guinea-----connects the Persian Gulf countries to the Indian Ocean.

**How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?**

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) All three pairs
- d) None of the pairs

**Q.37) Consider the following statements:**

1. The deep-swirling patterns in the Indian Ocean flow in the same direction to surface currents.
2. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands play a significant role in altering ocean currents, impacting their direction and speed to a notable extent.
3. Oceans are fundamental to weather and climate prediction.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.38) Consider the following impacts of Marine Heatwaves (MHW):**

1. Coral bleaching due to prolonged high temperatures.
2. Destruction of kelp forests leading to loss of biodiversity.
3. Increase in invasive species due to altered marine environments.

**How many of the above statements are correct regarding the consequences of Marine Heatwaves?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

## Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (c)	3 - (a)	4 - (a)	5 - (a)	6 - (c)	7 - (b)	8 - (d)	9 - (b)	10 - (c)
11 - (a)	12 - (a)	13 - (a)	14 - (b)	15 - (b)	16 - (c)	17 - (c)	18 - (c)	19 - (c)	20 - (a)
21 - (c)	22 - (a)	23 - (b)	24 - (c)	25 - (b)	26 - (a)	27 - (a)	28 - (b)	29 - (c)	30 - (b)
31 - (a)	32 - (b)	33 - (d)	34 - (c)	35 - (c)	36 - (a)	37 - (b)	38 - (c)		

## Answers & Explanations

**1. Correct Answer is (B)**

- The benefit of a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to consumers is that it ensures the product comes from a specific region known for its quality. A GI tag is a sign used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. This tag helps consumers trust the authenticity and quality of the product, as it is linked to the unique characteristics and traditional methods associated with the specific geographical region.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**2. Correct Answer is (C)**

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Katchatheevu Island is located in the Palk Strait, a narrow strip of water separating India and Sri Lanka. Katchatheevu Island is not suitable for permanent settlement due to the absence of a reliable source of drinking water. The island is small and uninhabited, with a size of approximately 285 acres. In 1974, India and Sri Lanka signed a maritime agreement that ceded Katchatheevu Island to Sri Lanka. The agreement aimed to resolve long-standing territorial disputes and fishery-related issues between the two countries. However, the agreement has been a source of controversy, particularly among the Indian fishing community in Tamil Nadu, who claim traditional fishing rights in the waters surrounding the island.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**3. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Venezuela, officially known as the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, is a country located on the northern coast of South America. It is bordered by Brazil, Colombia, and Guyana, and it has a coastline along the Caribbean Sea to the north. The capital and largest city of Venezuela is Caracas. The official language is Spanish. The country is known for its diverse landscapes, including the Andes mountains, vast grasslands, and the Amazon rainforest. Some of its notable landmarks include Angel Falls, the world's highest uninterrupted waterfall, the Caribbean islands of Margarita and Los Roques, and the diverse wildlife found in the Orinoco Delta.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**4. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Statement-I is correct as variations in the Pacific Ocean's temperature and wind patterns due to the El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) phenomenon can affect weather patterns globally.
- Statement-II is correct as the Pacific Ocean covers almost a third of the Earth, supporting the vast influence it can have on climate and weather patterns around the world.
- Hence, both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct, and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**5. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Statement 1 is correct. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has specific criteria for declaring a heat wave in different regions of the country. In the plains, a heat wave is declared when the maximum temperature reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius, while in hilly regions, it is declared when the maximum temperature reaches at least 30 degrees Celsius. The IMD can also declare a heat wave

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if the actual maximum temperature crosses 45 degrees C, and a 'severe heat wave' if it crosses 47 degrees C.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. The wet bulb temperature is the lowest temperature to which air can be cooled by the evaporation of water into the air. It is a measure of the moisture levels in the atmosphere and takes into account both temperature and relative humidity, providing a more accurate representation of the actual felt temperature, especially during humid conditions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. According to official data, the domestic steel sector accounts for 12% of India's greenhouse gas emissions with an emission intensity of 2.55 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> per tonne of crude steel produced, compared with the global average of 1.9 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>. This is mainly due to the energy-intensive nature of steel production processes, which often rely on fossil fuels. Direct Reduced Iron (DRI), or sponge iron, is a specific type of iron produced through a direct reduction process, which involves converting iron ore into solid-state iron without melting it. This process typically uses natural gas or coal as a reducing agent, making DRI an essential intermediate product in the steelmaking industry, especially in regions with limited access to high-quality iron ore or coking coal. DRI produces fewer greenhouse gas emissions compared to traditional blast furnace methods, especially when using natural gas.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 7. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Volcanic vortex rings form primarily due to the interaction of ejected volcanic material and gases with the atmosphere during explosive eruptions. The rings are primarily driven by the dynamics of the gas release and its interaction with the surrounding air.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Mount Etna is known for producing volcanic vortex rings. The volcano has been referred to as "Lady of the Rings" due to its ability to emit these rare and visually striking formations. Stratovolcanoes, characterized by their steep, conical shape and periodic explosive eruptions, are known for producing impressive volcanic vortex rings due to the rapid ejection of gas and volcanic material during explosive eruptions. However, it's important to note that other types of volcanoes can also generate vortex rings under specific conditions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 8. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Port of Baltimore is located on the Patapsco River. The port, situated in Baltimore, Maryland, is an important seaport and commercial hub for the region. While it is connected to other waterways, such as the Chesapeake Bay, the port's primary location is along the Patapsco River, which provides access to the Atlantic Ocean. The Port of Baltimore is the ninth largest U.S. port by overall trade volume.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 9. Correct Answer is (B)

- A total solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, casting its shadow on a portion of the Earth's surface. The Moon's position perfectly aligns with the Sun, blocking the Sun's light and casting darkness on the area within the Moon's shadow, known as the path of totality.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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### 10. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow and strategically significant waterway located between the Gulf of Oman, Iran, and the Persian Gulf, shared by Oman and Iran. It is a crucial maritime route for the global oil industry, as a large portion of the world's oil supply, primarily from the Middle East, passes through this strait. The strait's strategic importance and geopolitical sensitivities make it a critical area for international trade and global security.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

### 11. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Ural Mountains form a natural boundary between Eastern Europe and Western Asia. They stretch from the Kara Sea in the north to the Kazakh steppes in the south, passing through Russia and Kazakhstan.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 12. Correct Answer is (A)

- ENSO is measured by two indices- Oceanic Niño Index and Southern Oscillation Index. Oceanic Niño Index (ONI) is the primary indicator for monitoring the ocean part of El Niño-Southern Oscillation, or "ENSO". ONI is a widely used index that primarily measures sea surface temperature anomalies in the equatorial Pacific Ocean. Southern Oscillation Index (SOI) is the primary indicator for monitoring the atmospheric part of ENSO. The ONI tracks the running 3-month average sea surface temperatures in the east-central tropical Pacific between 120°-170°W, near the International Dateline. It also determines whether they are warmer or cooler than average.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 13. Correct Answer is (A)

- The McMahon Line is a disputed boundary that forms part of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between India and China in the Eastern Sector. It stretches from Bhutan in the west to Myanmar in the east, covering the present Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) is the world's largest producer of cobalt.
- Statement 2 is correct. Copper is used in power cables, wind turbines, electric vehicles and solar panels, and is the key material for energy transition while cobalt is a key car-battery metal.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 15. Correct Answer is (B)

- West Asian countries include: Armenia, Bahrain, Cyprus, Georgia, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, State of Palestine, Syria, United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 16. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Ecuador, officially the Republic of Ecuador, is a country in northwestern South America, bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Ecuador is named after the Equator, which runs through the middle of the country.

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- Statement 2 is incorrect. Ecuador borders the Pacific Ocean to the west.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 17. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Golan Heights is a plateau that borders the Sea of Galilee to the west. This body of water, also known as Lake Tiberias or Lake Kinneret, is the largest freshwater lake in Israel and provides a significant water source for the region. The Sea of Galilee is an important source of water for Israel and has significant religious and historical importance.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 18. Correct Answer is (C)

- La Niña is a climate phenomenon characterized by the cooling of sea surface temperatures in the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. This phenomenon can lead to changes in global weather patterns, particularly in Southeast Asia. During a La Niña event, the warmer waters in the western Pacific Ocean, around Southeast Asia, can cause an increase in precipitation, leading to heavy rainfall and flooding in the region. These adverse weather conditions can disrupt agricultural activities, leading to crop damage, reduced yields, and increased pest and disease outbreaks. In general, La Niña conditions tend to bring increased rainfall to certain regions, such as Southeast Asia and Australia, while causing drier conditions in other areas, such as the southwestern United States and parts of South America.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 19. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Hydrocarbons are organic compounds consisting of hydrogen and carbon atoms, and they exist in various forms, including natural gas, coal, crude oil, and petroleum. These resources are typically found in subterranean rock formations. Porous rock formations, such as sandstone or limestone, can hold larger quantities of hydrocarbons because the pores within these rocks allow fluids to accumulate and move through the rock, creating reservoirs for hydrocarbon storage. The permeability of the rock, which is the ability of fluids to flow through the interconnected pores, is also important for hydrocarbon extraction. The more permeable a rock is, more easily the hydrocarbons will flow through it.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. In the rocks, the primary source of hydrocarbons is kerogen, which are lumps of organic matter. Kerogen is a complex organic material formed from the decomposed remains of dead plants and animals that settled on the ocean floor or lake beds millions of years ago. Under high pressure and temperature over time, kerogen transforms into various hydrocarbons we utilize today. So, kerogen acts as the precursor material for the oil and gas we extract from rock formations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 20. Correct Answer is (A)

- As the river erodes the outer banks of the meander, it eventually cuts through the narrow neck of the loop, forming a new, straighter channel. The abandoned meander loop is then isolated from the main river, and water may become trapped within it, creating an oxbow lake. Over time, oxbow lakes may gradually fill with sediment or become colonized by vegetation, eventually transforming into wetlands or other types of habitats.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



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### 21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Torrential rains are characterized by heavy, intense downpours with high precipitation rates in a short period. They are often associated with severe weather events like thunderstorms, tropical storms, or hurricanes, and can lead to flash flooding, landslides, or other hazardous conditions due to the rapid accumulation of water.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 22. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. During a lunar eclipse, the Earth casts its shadow on the moon, which can be observed from the entire half of Earth facing the moon at that time. On the other hand, a solar eclipse is only visible from a narrow path on Earth's surface where the moon's shadow falls, as the moon blocks the sun's light.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. A total lunar eclipse lasts longer than a total solar eclipse because the Earth's shadow is much larger than the moon, allowing the moon to take a longer time to pass through it. Additionally, during a lunar eclipse, the Moon moves into and out of the Earth's shadow relatively slowly, resulting in a longer duration of totality compared to a solar eclipse.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 23. Correct Answer is (B)

- Monsoon shock describes the phenomenon where significant and unexpected changes in monsoon rainfall patterns lead to various negative consequences. These may include agricultural losses, flooding, infrastructure damage, and economic disruptions, among other impacts.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 24. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. According to the IMD, the definition of a heatwave depends on the physiography of regions. The IMD will declare a heatwave if the maximum temperature recorded at a station is 40 degrees Celsius or more in the plains, 37 degrees Celsius or more in the coast, and 30 degrees Celsius or more in the hills. A heatwave's severity is determined by its departure from normal temperature. There is a 'normal heatwave' when the departure is by 4.5-6.4 degrees Celsius and a 'severe heatwave' if the departure is greater. HAPs are policy documents that outline measures to be taken by government agencies, civil society organizations, and individuals to reduce the adverse effects of heatwaves on public health and other sectors.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 25. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Taiwan Strait is a 180-kilometer-wide body of water separating mainland China from Taiwan. It is a crucial route for commercial shipping, connecting the South China Sea and the East China Sea. The strait forms an essential part of the maritime transport network in East Asia, with a significant portion of global trade passing through it.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 26. Correct Answer is (A)

- Stratovolcanoes, also known as composite volcanoes, are conical-shaped structures formed by layers of solidified lava, ash, and volcanic rocks. These layers accumulate over time due to successive eruptions, giving stratovolcanoes their characteristic layered appearance.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**27. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Statement 1 is correct. The demographic dividend refers to the economic growth potential that arises from changes in a population's age structure, particularly when the share of the working-age population is larger than the non-working-age share of the population. This condition creates an opportunity for economic growth as there are more people able to work and contribute to the economy.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. A high dependency ratio, which indicates a larger proportion of non-working-age individuals compared to the working-age population, does not typically lead to a demographic dividend. Instead, a demographic dividend is more likely to occur when the dependency ratio is lower, meaning there are fewer dependents and more working-age individuals who can contribute to economic growth. High dependency ratios can actually place a greater economic burden on the working-age population, potentially requiring increased government spending on social welfare programs, which is not directly indicative of a demographic dividend.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**28. Correct Answer is (B)**

- In cloud seeding, particles like silver iodide or dry ice are introduced into clouds to promote precipitation. These particles serve as nuclei, providing surfaces for water vapor to condense and freeze. Once these ice crystals grow large enough, they fall as precipitation, either in the form of snowflakes or hail.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**29. Correct Answer is (C)**

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Vasuki Indicus is believed to have lived around 47 million years ago, which corresponds to the Middle Eocene period. As per the findings of the fossils, the snake likely had a cylindrical body suggesting a strong and powerful build.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Vasuki Indicus belonged to the extinct Madtsoiidae snake family.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**30. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Hainan Province is the southernmost province of China and is located on Hainan Island, which is separated from the mainland by the Qiongzhou Strait. The South China Sea surrounds Hainan Island, which is a significant maritime region in Southeast Asia and is bordered by several countries, including China, Taiwan, the Philippines, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**31. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. India houses 18% of the world's population on 2.4% of the earth's surface area and has just 4% of global freshwater resources. India is the largest user of groundwater in the world, accounting for about 25% of the global groundwater extraction. Groundwater is a crucial resource for irrigation, drinking water, and industrial use in the country. Water plays a significant role in the clean energy transition, as it is used in various renewable energy technologies such as hydropower, and some geothermal, solar, and bioenergy systems. Additionally, green hydrogen, produced through electrolysis using water and renewable energy, is seen as a promising carbon-free fuel source.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. Precipitation is the primary source of soil moisture and water stored in vegetation (green water) and the water available in rivers and aquifers (blue water).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**32. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Taiwan was formed at the convergence of the Philippine and Eurasian plates, making it a highly seismic region. Plate tectonics is the theory that explains the Earth's surface is made up of several plates that move relative to each other. There are about 15 major tectonic plates.
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. The occurrence of foreshocks is not a reliable method for predicting the timing of a main earthquake. Foreshocks sometimes precede larger earthquakes, but their occurrence is not a consistent indicator for accurate predictions. Magnetic fields in the Earth's core are not the primary mechanism responsible for the movement of tectonic plates that leads to earthquakes. The movement of tectonic plates is mainly driven by a process known as convection currents in the Earth's mantle. These currents cause hot, semi-liquid rock in the mantle to rise and cooler material to sink, causing the plates to move and interact with each other.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**33. Correct Answer is (D)**

- Glacial lakes form in various ways. They can be carved by glaciers, dammed by glacial debris, or even form on top of glaciers themselves. Meltwater from glaciers is the primary source of water for these lakes. Glacial lakes are often found in mountainous regions and can be quite deep and cold due to their origin. Some of the types of glacial lakes are:
- Moraine-dammed Lake: These lakes form when glaciers retreat, leaving behind piles of rocks and debris called moraines. If the moraine deposits block a valley, it creates a natural dam. Meltwater from the receding glacier or surrounding snowpack accumulates behind this dam, filling the basin and forming a lake.
- Erosional lake: Formed in depressions or basins created by glacial erosion. These depressions might be the result of glacial scour or other glacial processes that shape the landscape.
- Ice-dammed Lake: These lakes form when a glacier or glacial ice dams a river or valley. Unlike moraine-dammed lakes, here the ice itself acts as the dam. This can happen when a glacier advances or when large chunks of ice break off and lodge in a waterway. The dammed water accumulates behind the ice, forming a temporary lake. Ice-dammed lakes are less common and short-lived because the ice dam can melt relatively quickly, potentially causing sudden floods if it breaches.
- Cirque Lake (Tarn): Small Mountain lakes located in cirques, which are steep-walled amphitheater-shaped landforms formed at the mouth of a valley glacier.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**34. Correct Answer is (C)**

- The English Channel is a narrow body of water that forms a natural border between England (part of the United Kingdom) and France. It connects the southern portion of the North Sea to the Atlantic Ocean and is one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**35. Correct Answer is (C)**

- Evaporation is primarily responsible for lowering the wet-bulb temperature. When water evaporates from a surface, it takes away heat energy from the surroundings, causing a cooling effect. The wet-bulb temperature is a measure of the cooling effect of evaporating water on an object or surface. Wet-bulb temperature is a measure that combines the effects of temperature and humidity. It represents the lowest temperature that can be achieved through evaporative cooling, which is the body's

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primary means of cooling down. High wet-bulb temperatures can strain the cardiovascular system, as the body needs to work harder to maintain a stable core temperature.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 36. Correct Answer is (A)

- Only 1 is correctly matched.
- Strait of Hormuz: The Strait of Hormuz is a strategically important strait located between the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf. It is a crucial passage for maritime traffic, linking the Persian Gulf countries, such as Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, and the United Arab Emirates, to the Indian Ocean.
- Gulf of Guinea: The Gulf of Guinea is a large bay on the western coast of Africa, surrounded by countries such as Nigeria, Cameroon, Gabon, and the island nation of São Tomé and Príncipe. It has become an area of concern due to the increasing incidence of piracy and other maritime security challenges.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 37. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Deep-swirling patterns in the Indian Ocean, known as eddies, often flow in a different direction than surface currents. These eddies are a result of complex interactions between various factors such as ocean currents, temperature, salinity, and the Earth's rotation.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Maldives significantly impact ocean currents, affecting their direction and speed. Research has shown that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands significantly influence the circulation patterns in the Bay of Bengal, affecting both the direction and speed of ocean currents. These islands disrupt the flow of major currents like the East India Coastal Current and the Equatorial Counter Current, creating complex circulation patterns in the surrounding waters. Oceans play a fundamental role in weather and climate prediction. Ocean currents and surface temperatures significantly impact global climate patterns and weather events, such as El Niño and La Niña phenomena. Additionally, heat exchange between the ocean and the atmosphere influences various weather phenomena, including hurricanes and monsoons.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 38. Correct Answer is (C)

- All three statements correctly describe the consequences of Marine Heatwaves. MHWs lead to coral bleaching as corals expel the algae living in their tissues due to stress from high temperatures. They also cause the destruction of kelp forests, which are critical habitats for marine life, leading to biodiversity loss. Additionally, altered marine environments from MHWs can favor the spread of invasive species, further disrupting local ecosystems.

Source: [Forum IAS](#) , [Forum IAS](#)

## Polity

**Q.1) With reference to the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. Its function is to regulate civil aviation security at airports.
2. It works in accordance with international regulations set by the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
3. Air traffic control falls within the purview of BCAS.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.2) With reference to the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) slips, consider the following statements:**

1. Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology is used in VVPAT systems to print the paper record of each vote.
2. VVPAT slip helps in verifying the authenticity of the polling booth.
3. In case of discrepancies between electronic voting machine (EVM) results and VVPAT slips, the VVPAT slips are used for manual counting and verification.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.3) The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution aims to promote the interests of tribal communities in some of the Northeast regions. In which one of the following ways would the inclusion of Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule provide benefits to the region?**

- a) Resolve territorial disputes with neighboring countries
- b) Provide legal safeguards for traditional practices and land rights
- c) Increase funding allocations from the central government
- d) Eliminate poverty within a designated timeframe

**Q.4) With reference to the Chief Election Commissioner, consider the following statements:**

1. The tenure of the Chief Election Commissioner is five years or until the age of 60, whichever is earlier.
2. The removal of the Chief Election Commissioner from office can be done through a process similar to that of a judge of the Supreme Court.
3. The Chief Election Commissioner can be a member of any political party.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None



**Q.5) During elections, which one of the following statements about the Election Commission's special powers is correct?**

- a) It can issue ordinances during the election period
- b) It can appoint state governors
- c) It can grant statehood to Union Territories
- d) It can transfer civil servants and police officers

**Q.6) Consider the following statements:**

1. The legalization of living wills, which grants terminally-ill patients to make decisions about withholding or withdrawing medical treatment and die with dignity, is pending in India.
2. There is also no established protocol for authenticating living wills through digital health records by the National Health Authority.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.7) Who of the following, by convention, administers the oath to the newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha?**

- a) President of India
- b) Vice President of India
- c) Chief Justice of India
- d) Prime Minister of India

**Q.8) Consider the following statements:**

1. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) is responsible for regulating drug pricing and ensuring the availability of affordable medicines.
2. The NPPA annually revises the ceiling prices of scheduled medicines on the basis of Wholesale Price Index (WPI).
3. The scheduled medicines included in Schedule-II of the Medication Pricing Control Scheme (MPCS), 2013 are called as essential medicines.
4. All medicines under the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) are subject to price regulation.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- d) 1, 3 and 4 only

**Q.9) Consider the following statements:**

1. Article 20 (3) of the Constitution provides that no person accused of any offence shall be compelled to be a witness against himself.
2. A confession made under fear of harsher punishment from police is considered invalid under Article 20(3).

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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### Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. A party is recognised as a 'national' or 'state' party under the provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 (Symbols Order) by the Election Commission of India (ECI).
2. A recognised political party has a reserved symbol that is not allotted to any other candidate in any constituency.
3. If a political party is registered but not recognized, it cannot get a common symbol for elections if it contests in two Lok Sabha constituencies.

### Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

### Q.11) Consider the following pairs:

#### Parliamentary Procedures-----Objectives

1. Zero Hour-----Raising matters of urgent public importance without prior notice.
2. Half-an-Hour Discussions----- Opportunity for members to highlight specific issues briefly.
3. Calling Attention-----Provides a platform for in-depth discussion on a pre-approved topic of significant public interest.
4. Special Mentions-----Members draw attention to specific grievances or issues faced by their constituents.

### How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

- a) Only one pair
- b) Only two pairs
- c) Only three pairs
- d) All four pairs

### Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Universal health coverage (UHC) represents the goal of ensuring that all individuals have access to comprehensive, high-quality health services without suffering financial hardship.
2. India's Constitutional provisions do not provide a basis for the right to health.

### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. The "procedure established by law" clause in Article 21 can be used to justify arbitrary detention by the police without any legal basis.
2. The Supreme Court has observed that the right against climate change is recognized under Articles 14 and 21 of the Indian Constitution.

### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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### Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. The practice of reserving judgments, while providing relief to overworked judges, often leads to prolonged delays in the judicial process.
2. Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita 2023, specifies a deadline of 45 days for judgments in criminal cases, extendable to three months in exceptional circumstances.

#### Which of the statements(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.15) Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) was first introduced on a trial basis in Kerala.
2. Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) are used in elections in Germany.
3. The issue of invalid votes, common with paper ballots, has been eradicated by EVMs, streamlining the counting process.

#### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

### Q.16) Consider the following statements:

1. The 'Just Transition Framework' is a concept which ensures that the costs and benefits of the transition towards low-carbon economy should be shared equitably.
2. The right against climate change is legally binding, as acknowledged by the Supreme Court.

#### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.17) Consider the following statements:

1. A quasi-judicial commission is a judicial body that operates within the traditional court system.
2. A quasi-judicial commission provide a more informal and accessible dispute resolution process over traditional courts.
3. The powers of a quasi-judicial commission are usually limited to a specific area of expertise.
4. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) is a quasi-judicial commission.

#### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

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### Q.18) Consider the following statements:

1. A film trailer is an agreement enforceable by law.
2. A producer of a film cannot be held liable for unfair trade practice if the contents of the promo/trailer do not feature in the actual movie.

#### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.19) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 15 of the Indian Constitution prohibits discrimination based on disability.
2. India has ratified UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which emphasizes that persons with disabilities should enjoy rights on an equal basis with others.

#### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. Star campaigners can be designated "leaders of a political party" who campaign on behalf of their party's candidates.
2. Recognised national or state political parties can appoint a maximum of 20-star campaigners.
3. Section 77 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) allows star campaigners to campaign without the costs being added to a candidate's election expenditure.

#### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

### Q.21) Consider the following statements:

1. Any food hazardous to public health poses a danger to the fundamental right to life.
2. The Food Safety and Standards (Safe food and balanced diets for children in school) Regulations, 2020, restricts the sale of high in fats, salts and sugars (HFSS) foods in school canteens, or within 50 metres of the school campus.
3. Presence of artificial sweeteners is one of the important factors considered when calculating the Indian Nutrition Rating (INR) score of a food item.

#### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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### Q.22) Consider the following:

1. Investigating complaints regarding violation of rights of backward classes
2. Recommending inclusion or exclusion of castes/communities in the backward classes list
3. Advising the Central Government on measures for welfare of backward classes
4. Providing legal aid services to backward classes
5. Inquiring into matters related to reservation in educational institutions or posts in public services

### How many of the above are the functions of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC)?

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) All five

### Q.23) Consider the following statements:

1. Article 329(b) of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act (RP Act) states that no election shall be called into question except through an election petition before the concerned High Court.
2. As per the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act), an elector above 25 years of age can contest Lok Sabha election from any constituency in India.
3. As per the election rules, a party cannot field a substitute candidate if the original nominee's papers are rejected.

### Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

### Q.24) Consider the following statements:

1. According to the Section 53 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, if the number of candidates matches the number of seats, they are to be declared elected without a poll.
2. If a significant number of voters select None of the Above (NOTA) option, it invalidates the election.
3. If no candidates contest election from a constituency, the Election Commission of India (ECI) might be obliged to conduct another election, allowing a new set of candidates to run.

### Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

### Q.25) The primary function of the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) is to:

- a) Promote creativity and innovation in advertising.
- b) Ensure fair competition among businesses through advertising.
- c) Protect consumer interests by regulating advertising content.
- d) Generate revenue for the Indian government through advertising taxes.

### Q.26) What is the role of the Symbol Loading Unit (SLU) in the context of VVPAT usage during elections?

- a) It records the votes cast by the voters
- b) It is used for loading candidate symbols onto the VVPATs
- c) It tabulates and displays election results
- d) It serves as a backup memory for EVMs



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**Q.27) What is the primary purpose of curative jurisdiction?**

- To allow any court to change its previous judgments as per its own discretion.
- To correct errors in judgments that might have led to a miscarriage of justice.
- To enhance the public understanding of complex legal doctrines.
- To provide a standard process for all legal disputes.

**Q.28) With reference to the functions and powers of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), consider the following statements:**

- The NHRC has the power to intervene in any proceeding involving any allegation of violation of human rights pending before a court.
- The Commission has the authority to visit any jail or any other institution under the control of the State Government, where it believes human rights are being violated.
- The NHRC can review the safeguards provided under the Constitution or any law for the protection of human rights and recommend measures for their effective implementation.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- Only one
- Only two
- All three
- None

**Q.29) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** The Election Commission can adjourn polling in a station due to severe natural disasters.

**Statement-II:** The Election Commission must approve the new date and hours before the adjourned poll can recommence.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

**Q.30) Which of the following officials involved in the electoral process is responsible for conducting elections at the polling station level?**

- Election Commissioner (EC)
- Presiding Officer (PO)
- Returning Officer (RO)
- Chief Electoral Officer (CEO)

**Q.31) Among the following entities, which are likely to benefit from the training programs offered by the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)?**

- Indian Administrative Service officers
- Local government officials
- Corporate executives

**Which of the above options is/are correct?**

- Only 1 and 2
- Only 2 and 3
- Only 1 and 3
- 1, 2, and 3

## Answer Key

1 - (a)	2 - (a)	3 - (b)	4 - (a)	5 - (d)	6 - (b)	7 - (b)	8 - (c)
9 - (c)	10 - (a)	11 - (b)	12 - (a)	13 - (b)	14 - (a)	15 - (b)	16 - (a)
17 - (c)	18 - (b)	19 - (b)	20 - (c)	21 - (b)	22 - (c)	23 - (a)	24 - (c)
25 - (c)	26 - (b)	27 - (b)	28 - (c)	29 - (b)	30 - (b)	31 - (a)	

## Answers & Explanations

### 1. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) is responsible for regulating civil aviation security at airports in India.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. BCAS lays down aviation security standards in line with the International Civil Aviation Organization's (ICAO) Annex 17 and other relevant guidelines. Air traffic control does not fall within the purview of BCAS. It is primarily responsible for aviation security, including the development and implementation of security policies, procedures, and guidelines. Air traffic control is managed by the Airports Authority of India (AAI), which is a separate entity responsible for the management and control of air traffic within Indian airspace.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 2. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Radio-frequency identification (RFID) technology is not used in the Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) systems to print the paper record of each vote. Instead, VVPAT machines are connected to electronic voting machines (EVMs) and generate a printed slip containing the voter's chosen candidate, the corresponding party symbol, and a unique serial number. The primary purpose of a VVPAT slip is to help voters verify that their vote has been correctly recorded and to maintain a transparent and verifiable paper record of each vote cast. The slip ensures the transparency and credibility of the voting process, rather than verifying the authenticity of the polling booth.
- Statement 3 is correct. In the event of discrepancies between the electronic voting machine (EVM) results and VVPAT slips, the VVPAT slips are used for manual counting and verification. The VVPAT system enables election officials to perform a recount of the paper trail in case of disputes or concerns regarding the accuracy of EVMs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 3. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution aims to promote the interests of tribal communities in some regions of Northeast India. By including Ladakh in the Sixth Schedule, it would provide legal

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safeguards for traditional practices and land rights, ensuring the preservation of Ladakhi culture and protecting local communities' control over their land and resources. This would also offer the Ladakhi people greater autonomy in decision-making processes that affect their lives, which is essential for preserving their unique cultural identity and fostering sustainable development in the region.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 4. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The tenure of the Chief Election Commissioner is six years or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier. The Chief Election Commissioner must be an independent individual and cannot be affiliated with any political party. This is to ensure the neutrality and impartiality of the Election Commission in conducting free and fair elections.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office in a manner similar to the removal of a Supreme Court judge. The process involves a motion in Parliament, supported by a special majority of both Houses, and the President's assent.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 5. Correct Answer is (D)

- The Election Commission of India has the power to transfer civil servants and police officers during the election period to ensure the smooth and unbiased conduct of elections. This power is granted under Article 324 of the Indian Constitution, which entrusts the Election Commission with the responsibility of conducting free and fair elections.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Living wills have been legal in India since 2018 when the Supreme Court of India created a process to allow terminally-ill patients, with no hope of a cure, to withhold or withdraw treatment and die with dignity.
- Statement 2 is correct. As of now, there is no established protocol for authenticating living wills through digital health records by the National Health Authority in India. The current procedure involves signing living wills in the presence of two witnesses, getting them attested before a notary or a gazetted officer, and handing them over to a hospital. The implementation of living wills still faces some challenges and requires more support from State governments and the healthcare system.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 7. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Vice President of India, who is also the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, administers the oath to the newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha. This is in accordance with Article 99 of the Indian Constitution, which deals with the procedure for administering oaths or affirmations to members of Parliament.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 8. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The NPPA, established in 1997, is an Indian regulatory agency that works under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. Its primary responsibility is to monitor and control the prices of pharmaceutical drugs, as well as ensure the availability of affordable medicines

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in the market. The NPPA annually revises the ceiling prices of scheduled medicines based on the Wholesale Price Index (WPI). NPPA is allowed to direct a price hike of over 10% for the drugs and devices listed on the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM). All medicines under the NLEM are subject to price regulation.

- Statement 3 is incorrect. The scheduled medicines included in Schedule-I of the Drug Price Control Orders (DPCO), 2013 are essential medicines.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 9. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Article 20(3) of the Indian Constitution protects individuals accused of an offense from self-incrimination by stating that no person shall be compelled to be a witness against themselves. This protection extends to both oral testimony and the production of incriminating documents or materials. A confession made under fear of harsher punishment from police is considered invalid under Article 20(3). This aligns with the landmark decision in Nandini Satpathy vs P.L. Dani. The Supreme Court expanded the understanding of Article 20(3) to cover not only physical threats but also psychological pressure and intimidation. A confession made under fear of receiving harsher punishment directly violates this right and would be considered inadmissible in court.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. A party is recognised as a 'national' or 'state' party under the provisions of the Election Symbols (Reservation and Allotment) Order, 1968 (Symbols Order) by the Election Commission of India (ECI). The Election Commission of India recognizes political parties as national or state parties based on their performance in elections and their presence in various states. The Symbols Order outlines the criteria for such recognition and regulates the allotment of symbols to parties. One of the major benefits of being a recognized party (national or state) is having a reserved symbol. This means the symbol is exclusively allocated to that party, and no other candidate can use it. This provides consistency and helps voters easily identify the party.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. For registered but unrecognised political parties, one of the free symbols is allotted as a common symbol during an election if that party contests in two Lok Sabha constituencies or in 5% of seats to the Assembly of a State as the case may be.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 11. Correct Answer is (B)

- 1 and 4 are correctly matched.
- Zero Hour allows Members of Parliament to raise matters of urgent public importance without prior notice.
- Half-an-Hour Discussions in parliamentary proceedings are meant for discussing a matter of sufficient public importance that has been the subject of a recent question, where the answer given requires further elucidation on a matter of fact. It involves a formal motion to discuss a specific matter of public importance for a limited time, typically lasting up to half an hour.
- Calling Attention is used by Members of Parliament to call the attention of a Minister to a specific matter of urgent public importance, but it does not involve an in-depth discussion. This procedure allows the member to call the attention of the government to specific issues that require immediate consideration and response.

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- Special Mentions are used by members to draw attention to specific grievances or issues faced by their constituents or matters of urgent public importance. Unlike Zero Hour submissions, Special Mentions are more formalized and require members to submit their issues in writing in advance. There is no follow-up action on matters raised as Special Mentions, and it is not obligatory on the part of the Government to respond formally or informally to those matters.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 12. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Universal health coverage (UHC) is defined as ensuring that all people can use the promotive, preventive, curative, rehabilitative, and palliative health services they need, of sufficient quality to be effective, while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose the user to financial hardship. UHC involves coverage with good health services across the full sectors of essential health services, as well as financial risk protection, aiming for coverage to be for everyone.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the Constitution of India does not expressly guarantee a fundamental right to health, various provisions under the Constitution provide a basis for the right to health. The Directive Principles of State Policy, particularly Articles 38, 39, 42, 43, and 47, put the obligation on the state to ensure the effective realization of the right to health. Additionally, Article 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the fundamental right to life and personal liberty, has been interpreted by the judiciary to include the right to health as inherent to a life with dignity.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 13. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The "procedure established by law" clause in Article 21 of the Indian Constitution ensures that a person's right to life and personal liberty can only be restricted if there is a legal procedure in place. It does not permit arbitrary detention by the police without any legal basis. Instead, it protects citizens from such actions by requiring any limitations on fundamental rights to follow established legal processes.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Supreme Court of India recently recognized the right against adverse effects of climate change as an aspect of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Articles 14 (right to equality) and 21 (right to life) of the Indian Constitution.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 14. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The practice of reserving judgments leads to delays in the judicial process. This is a recognized problem, and there have been instances where the Supreme Court of India has expressed concern over the unreasonable time taken for the pronouncement of judgments without any exceptional and unusual reasons, as it may affect the confidence of the public in the judiciary.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, proposes a deadline for delivering a verdict within 30 days after the conclusion of arguments, which can be extended to 45 days for specific reasons.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

### 15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. EVMs were first used on a trial basis in the Paravur Assembly constituency in Kerala in 1982. EVMs have eliminated the category of "invalid votes" that were a



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problem with paper ballots, as they allow only one button to be pressed to register a vote, ruling out manual errors prevalent during the paper ballot days.

- Statement 2 is incorrect. Germany does not use electronic voting machines in its elections. In 2009, the German Federal Constitutional Court ruled that the use of electronic voting machines was unconstitutional, citing concerns over the transparency and verifiability of the voting process. Since then, Germany has primarily relied on paper ballots for its elections.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 16. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Just Transition Framework is designed to ensure that the transition towards a low-carbon economy is fair and inclusive, aiming to share the costs and benefits of this transition equitably among all stakeholders. This concept has been developed to secure workers' rights and livelihoods as economies shift away from fossil fuels towards more sustainable forms of energy. It emphasizes social interventions and is supported by various international and national policies and frameworks.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. While the Supreme Court of India has recognized the right to be free from the adverse effects of climate change, aligning it with the constitutional rights to life and equality under Articles 14 and 21, this recognition does not make the right legally binding per se. The Court's acknowledgment serves as a significant legal precedent and influences the broader discourse on environmental and climate justice. However, the operative part of the judgment does not explicitly state that this right is legally binding, and its enforceability depends on further legal developments and the implementation of relevant policies and legislation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 17. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. A quasi-judicial commission is an entity with powers and procedures resembling those of a court of law, but it operates outside the traditional court system. It is not a judicial body in the traditional sense.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. Quasi-judicial commissions are designed to offer alternative dispute resolution methods, which are typically more accessible and less formal than traditional courts. This allows for a more efficient and streamlined process for resolving specific types of disputes. Quasi-judicial commissions are generally established to address specific areas of law or particular types of disputes. Their powers are limited to their area of expertise, and they cannot rule on matters outside their jurisdiction. The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) is a quasi-judicial commission which was set up in 1988 under the Consumer Protection Act of 1986.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 18. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Film trailers are not considered legal agreements. They are meant to generate interest and don't guarantee specific content in the final film.
- Statement 2 is correct. Currently, there's no legal obligation for a trailer to perfectly reflect the final film. Hence, a producer of a film cannot be held liable for unfair trade practice if the contents of the promo do not feature in the actual movie.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 19. Correct Answer is (B)

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- Statement 1 is incorrect. Article 15 of the Indian Constitution does not explicitly prohibit discrimination based on disability. It specifically mentions religion, race, caste, sex, and place of birth as the grounds on which discrimination is prohibited. In India, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, provides comprehensive protection against discrimination based on disability and has brought India closer to aligning with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Protection against discrimination based on disability is a statutory right in India not a constitutional right.
- Statement 2 is correct. India has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which emphasizes that persons with disabilities should enjoy rights on an equal basis with others. India ratified the convention on October 1, 2007.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 20. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Star campaigners are designated "leaders of a political party" who campaign on behalf of their party's candidates during elections. Moreover, star campaigners are not necessarily just "leaders" of a political party. They can also be prominent figures who campaign for the party's candidates. This can include film actors, athletes, or other influential personalities. Section 77 of the RP Act exempts expenses incurred on star campaigners from being added to the individual candidate's election expenditure. This allows parties more flexibility in spending during campaigns. Star campaigners' expenses are excluded from a candidate's election expenditure only if they engage in general campaigning for the party without directly seeking votes for specific candidates or sharing the dais with them.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Recognized political parties, both national and state, can appoint up to 40-star campaigners while, Registered unrecognized political parties are allowed to appoint up to 20-star campaigners.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 21. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Supreme Court of India has ruled that the right to life under Article 21 of the Constitution of India includes the right to safe food, free from contaminants that could be hazardous to health. The Food Safety and Standards (Safe food and balanced diets for children in school) Regulations, 2020, restricts the sale of high in fats, salts and sugars (HFSS) foods in school canteens, or within 50 metres of the school campus. This is part of the efforts to ensure that children have access to safe and balanced diets while at school.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The INR focuses on evaluating the overall nutritional profile of food products based on factors like energy, sugars, saturated fat, sodium, and the presence of fruits, vegetables, nuts, legumes, and millets. The Indian Nutrition Rating (INR) system is a front-of-pack labeling initiative designed to help consumers make informed decisions about the nutritional quality of packaged foods. It assigns a rating from ½ star (least healthy) to 5 stars (healthiest) based on the overall nutritional profile of the food item.
- However, while the presence of artificial sweeteners may indirectly impact the nutritional profile of a product, there is no specific mention of it being a direct factor when calculating the INR score.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 22. Correct Answer is (C)

- The National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) is an Indian constitutional body under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. The main work of the commission is to participate and

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advise actively on the socio-economic development of the socially backward classes (OBCs) along with evaluating the progress of their development. Amongst the functions mentioned above, providing legal aid services to backward classes is not a function of the NCBC.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 23. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Article 329(b) of the Constitution of India stipulates that no election to either House of Parliament or to the House or either House of the Legislature of a State shall be called into question except by an election petition presented to such authority and in such manner as may be provided for by or under any law made by the appropriate Legislature. This is also reflected in Section 80 of the Representation of the People Act (RP Act). The RP Act allows an elector who is above 25 years of age to contest Lok Sabha elections from any constituency in India.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The election rules allow for a substitute candidate to be fielded by a political party if the original candidate's nomination papers are rejected.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 24. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Section 53 of The Representation of the People Act, 1951, states that if the number of contesting candidates is equal to the number of seats to be filled, the returning officer shall declare all such candidates to be duly elected. If no candidates contest an election from a constituency, the Election Commission of India (ECI) may be required to conduct another election to fill the vacant seat. In such cases, the ECI could allow a new set of candidates to run for election in the respective constituency.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Election Commission of India has clarified that even if NOTA receives more votes than any of the candidates, it does not invalidate the election. The candidate with the highest number of votes among the contesting candidates is still declared the winner.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 25. Correct Answer is (C)

- ASCI is a self-regulatory voluntary organization of the advertising industry in India. Its main objective is to ensure that advertising is honest, decent, and fair to consumers by promoting responsible advertising practices and regulating the content of advertisements across various media platforms. By doing so, ASCI aims to maintain public confidence in advertising and contribute to the overall growth and development of the advertising industry. As a self-regulatory body, ASCI does not have statutory enforcement power to impose penalties or punishments on violators of its guidelines.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 26. Correct Answer is (B)

- The SLU is specifically designed to load candidate symbols onto the VVPATs, which is crucial for ensuring that the VVPATs display the correct symbols associated with each candidate during voting. This process is essential for the integrity of the voting system as it links candidate choices visibly for voter verification.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

### 27. Correct Answer is (B)

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- The article explains that curative jurisdiction is specifically designed as a remedial mechanism to correct grave errors in judgments or orders that have led to a miscarriage of justice, thereby ensuring fairness and justice in legal proceedings.

### 28. Correct Answer is (C)

- All statements are correct regarding the powers and functions of the NHRC. It has a broad mandate to intervene in legal proceedings, inspect state-controlled institutions, and review existing protections for human rights to ensure their effective implementation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 29. Correct Answer is (B)

- Both statements are correct, reflecting the procedural requirements and authority of the Election Commission in cases of polling disruptions. However, Statement-II does not explain Statement-I but rather outlines the subsequent procedural step that must be followed after an adjournment decision has been made due to a severe natural disaster or other disruptions.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 30. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Returning Officer (RO) and the Presiding Officer (PO) are directly responsible for overseeing the conduct of elections at the polling station level. The RO supervises the overall election process within a constituency, including managing polling stations, while the Presiding Officer conducts polling at a specific polling station. These officers ensure that the voting process is carried out smoothly and in accordance with the legal framework. The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) oversees the elections at the state level, and the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) heads the Election Commission, which sets policies and guidelines for national and state elections but does not directly manage individual polling stations.

### 31. Correct Answer is (A)

- The NCGG primarily benefits Indian Administrative Service officers and local government officials through its training programs focused on enhancing governance and public administration skills. While corporate executives may benefit indirectly through improved governance frameworks, the direct target of NCGG's training programs is public officials involved in administration and governance.

Source: [PIB](#)

## Acts & Policies

### Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. The state is legally mandated to provide up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every rural household under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS).
2. The Aadhaar-Based Payment System (ABPS) primarily aims to track employment data for government schemes.

### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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**Q.2) Which one of the following organizations has launched the 'One Vehicle One FASTag' initiative?**

- a) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- b) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
- c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH)
- d) National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

**Q.3) Consider the following statements:**

1. The demand for work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has seen a decline.
2. Employment under MGNREGS is generated only when there is no alternative paying better wages.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.4) Consider the following statements:**

1. Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019 encourages domestic manufacturing of solar panels.
2. Domestic manufactures listed “approved” under Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019 gets eligible to participate in the PM solar rooftop scheme.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.5) With reference to the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, consider the following statements:**

1. Under the Act, the birth and death database can be used to update the National Population Register.
2. The digital birth certificates issued under the Act will become a supportive document along with the Adhaar card to prove the date of birth for various services.
3. According to the Act, Registrar General of India (RGI) shall maintain the database of registered births and deaths at the national level.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3



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**Q.6) With reference to the Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009, consider the following statements:**

1. It guarantees free and compulsory education for children in India between the age group of 3-6 years.
2. It prohibits board exams for children until they complete elementary education.
3. It mandates that private schools reserve 25% of seats for children belonging to disadvantaged sections.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.7) With reference to the Telecommunications Act, 2023, consider the following statements:**

1. It introduced the concept of setting up multiple regulatory sandboxes (RS) to foster innovation within the telecom sector.
2. These sandboxes provide regulated access to network and customer resources for testing new products, services, processes, and business models.
3. Both Indian nationals and foreign entities are eligible to participate in these regulatory sandboxes.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.8) With reference to the Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023, consider the following statements:**

1. It applies to the processing of digital personal data within India, regardless of where the data is physically stored.
2. It grants individuals rights such as accessing and erasing their data.
3. The Act only applies to the processing of digital personal data by Indian companies and does not cover foreign entities processing data of Indian citizens.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.9) Consider the following statements:**

1. In India, persons with disabilities account for 5-8% of the population.
2. Rules under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act (RPWDA), 2016 require that all Information and Communications Technology (ICT) goods and services to be accessible in accordance with the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
3. The Consumer Protection Act (CPA), 2019 lacks any dedicated rights for consumers with disabilities.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

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**Q.10) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. It aims at bridging the gap between demand and supply in India's healthcare sector and improving the doctor-patient ratio.
2. PMSSY focuses on achieving its goals through expanding the network of primary health centers.
3. Increasing the number of private medical practitioners in rural areas is one of the objectives of PMSSY.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

**Q.11) With reference to the National Framework of Early Childhood Stimulation 2024, which of the following statements are correct?**

1. The framework is designed to guide early childhood development from birth to three years.
2. The curriculum outlined in the framework aligns with the National Education Policy, 2020.
3. The framework provides detailed month-by-month activities for parents, anganwadi staff, and ASHA workers.
4. The framework allows integrating technology responsibly into early childhood education to promote digital literacy.

**Select the correct statements using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- c) 2 and 4 only
- d) 2, 3 and 4 only

**Q.12) With reference to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY), consider the following statements:**

1. It is a centrally sponsored scheme designed to ensure "Housing for All".
2. It aims to involve the private sector to bridge the gap in public investments for social housing.
3. The Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS) component of PMAY provides direct cash transfers to eligible beneficiaries.
4. Under the Beneficiary-led Construction (BLC) component of PMAY, the government's role is limited to cost-sharing with beneficiaries.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.13) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Swachh Bharat Mission was launched with the aim of making India open defecation-free (ODF) and ensuring proper sanitation and waste management.
2. The Environment Performance Index (EPI) uses cultural diversity, human rights, and political stability to rank countries.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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### Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, provides for reservation both in government and in higher education institutions.
2. Currently, India lacks a test for diagnosing specific learning disabilities (SLDs) in adults.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.15) Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** Intensive confinement of animals in industrial poultry facilities violates the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960.

**Statement-II:** Overcrowding of animals in unsanitary conditions causes unnecessary pain and suffering.

Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct but Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I.
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect.
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct.

## Answer Key

1 - (a)	2 - (d)	3 - (b)	4 - (c)	5 - (c)
6 - (b)	7 - (b)	8 - (b)	9 - (d)	10 - (b)
11 - (b)	12 - (c)	13 - (a)	14 - (c)	15 - (a)

## Answers & Explanations

### 1. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) mandates the government to provide up to 100 days of guaranteed wage employment to every rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary goal of ABPS is to facilitate the direct disbursement of government benefits and subsidies to beneficiaries' bank accounts, ensuring the money reaches the intended recipients. While ABPS might indirectly help track some data related to scheme participation, it's not designed for comprehensive employment data tracking.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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### 2. Correct Answer is (D)

- The 'One Vehicle One FASTag' initiative was launched by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to promote the use of FASTags for electronic toll collection and improve the efficiency of toll collection on national highways. This initiative aims to ensure that each vehicle is linked to a single FASTag, preventing instances of multiple FASTags being used for a single vehicle and contributing to a smoother and more streamlined toll collection process.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

### 3. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. As per the statistics, the demand for work under MGNREGS is more than the pre-pandemic level and on a steady rise.
- Statement 2 is correct. Employment under MGNREGS is generated primarily as a social safety net and as a last resort when no other employment opportunities are available or paying better wages. MGNREGS ensures a guaranteed minimum wage to rural households for unskilled manual work, which helps address poverty and income insecurity in rural areas. It acts as an employer of last resort and does not aim to compete with more lucrative employment options.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 4. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019, also known as the ALMM Order, encourages domestic manufacturing of solar panels. The order mandates that solar cells and modules used in government projects, government-assisted projects, projects under government schemes and programs, open access, and net-metering projects must be sourced from manufacturers listed in the ALMM. One of the major advantages of being listed as an 'approved' manufacturing facility under the Approved Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic Modules (Requirement for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2019 is the eligibility to compete for government tenders, including the recently announced PM solar rooftop scheme.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 5. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Under, the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, the birth and death database may be used to update the National Population Register, electoral rolls, Aadhaar number, ration card, passport, driving licence, property registration, and such other databases as may be notified. According to the Act, Registrar General of India (RGI) shall maintain the database of registered births and deaths at the national level and it is obligatory upon the Chief Registrars and the Registrars to share the data of registered births and deaths to such a database.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The digital birth certificates issued under the Act will become a single document to prove the date of birth for various services, including admission to educational institutions.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Right to Education Act (RTE) 2009 guarantees free and compulsory education for children in India between the age group of 6-14 years.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The RTE Act prohibits schools from conducting board exams or any other type of examination that may lead to a child being held back or expelled from school until they

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have completed elementary education (up to Class 8). The RTE Act requires private, unaided schools to reserve at least 25% of their entry-level seats for children from economically weaker sections and disadvantaged groups, with the government reimbursing these schools for the costs involved.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 7. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Telecommunications Act, 2023, empowers the government to establish multiple regulatory sandboxes (RS) to promote innovation in the telecom sector. Regulatory sandboxes under the Act are intended to allow telecom companies to test new technologies, services, and business models in a controlled environment with regulatory supervision.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. As of now and recommendations surrounding the Telecommunications Act, 2023, only Indian nationals or entities are likely to be eligible to participate in these regulatory sandboxes. This is subject to change based on final regulations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Act applies to digital personal data processing within India and also extends to data collected offline but later digitized. It also covers data processed outside India if it involves providing goods or services to individuals in India. The Act grants rights to individuals, including the right to access and erase their data, along with the rights to consent, correction, data portability, and grievance redressal.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The Act applies to both Indian and foreign entities processing digital personal data within India or providing goods and services to individuals in India. The Act categorizes entities into Data Fiduciaries (DFs) and Significant Data Fiduciaries (SDFs), with SDFs subject to additional obligations. Both Indian and foreign entities may fall under these categories based on their data processing activities, scale of operations, and potential for causing harm to individuals.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 9. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. According to various sources, including the 2011 Census and the World Bank, it is estimated that persons with disabilities make up between 5-8% of India's population. The RPWDA has provisions that mandate the accessibility of ICT goods and services, including websites, applications, and other digital platforms, according to the guidelines set by the BIS. These guidelines aim to ensure that persons with disabilities can access and use these technologies effectively. The Consumer Protection Act, 2019, focuses primarily on the protection of consumers' interests in general and does not specifically address the rights of consumers with disabilities.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 10. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) was announced in 2003 with the goal of bridging the gap between demand and supply in India's healthcare sector and improving the doctor-patient ratio.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. PMSSY focuses on achieving its goals through establishing new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and upgrading existing government medical colleges.



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PMSSY doesn't directly target increasing the number of private medical practitioners. Its focus is on strengthening public healthcare infrastructure and education.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 11. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The National Framework of Early Childhood Stimulation, 2024, titled "Navchetana," is designed to guide early childhood development from birth to three years. This framework emphasizes the importance of starting a child's learning process from month zero. The curriculum outlined in the framework is activity-based and aligns with the National Education Policy, 2020. The activities focus on stimulating all senses, especially sight and touch, to help children reach developmental milestones and foster early language, literacy, and numeracy skills. The framework provides detailed month-by-month activities for parents, anganwadi staff, and ASHA workers.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. The framework focuses on responsive caregiving and play, not integrating technology.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 12. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2, and 4 are correct. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched by the Indian government in 2015 with the objective of providing "Housing for All". PMAY includes the involvement of the private sector to address the housing needs, particularly through the in-situ rehabilitation of slum dwellers with private developers' participation. In the BLC component of PMAY, the government provides financial assistance, but the role is primarily limited to cost-sharing, with the bulk of investment often coming from the beneficiaries themselves.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The CLSS under PMAY does not provide direct cash transfers; instead, it offers an interest subsidy on home loans taken by eligible beneficiaries, which is credited upfront to the loan accounts, reducing the effective housing loan and Equated Monthly Installment (EMI).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 13. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India Mission) was launched in 2014 to focus on sanitation and waste management in India. One of its key goals is making India open defecation-free (ODF) by building toilets and encouraging better sanitation practices.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The EPI ranks countries based on environmental performance indicators across categories such as climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality. The Environment Performance Index (EPI) is a ranking system that evaluates a country's performance on environmental health. It's a biennial report developed by the Yale Center for Environmental Law & Sustainability in collaboration with the World Economic Forum and the Columbia University Center for International Earth Science Information Network.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 14. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPwD) Act, 2016, provides for reservation in government jobs and higher education institutions for persons with benchmark disabilities, including physical, visual, hearing, speech, and intellectual disabilities, as well as mental illness and multiple disabilities. The Act aims to ensure equal opportunities and promote social inclusion for people with disabilities. India currently lacks a standard, widely accepted test for diagnosing specific learning disabilities (SLDs) in adults. While several tools and assessments are

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available for identifying SLDs in children, there is a need for more specialized diagnostic tools and procedures tailored to the adult population.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 15. Correct Answer is (A)

- The article clearly states that keeping animals in intensive confinement, such as cramming chickens in battery cages in high densities, constitutes a crime under the provisions of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 (Assertion A is true). It further mentions that the unsanitary conditions and overcrowding of animals at these facilities cause unnecessary pain and suffering, which is a violation of the PCA Act (Reason R is true). Reason R directly explains why the intensive confinement practices mentioned in Assertion A, specifically overcrowding in unsanitary conditions, violate the PCA Act, making it the correct explanation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## Index & Reports

**Q.1) The 'State of the Global Climate Report' is an annual publication that tracks climate change indicators. Which one of the following organizations is responsible for publishing this report?**

- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)
- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

**Q.2) With reference to the Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023, which of the following statements are correct?**

- More than half of the surveyed students struggled with basic mathematics.
- Approximately 25% of students in the age group 14 to 18 years were unable to read a Class 2 level text in their vernacular language.
- The survey observed a decreasing trend in dropout rates with age.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- 1 and 2 only
- 2 and 3 only
- 1 and 3 only
- 1, 2 and 3

**Q.3) Which one of the following has published the 'Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23'?**

- National Statistical Office
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- NITI Aayog

**Q.4) The ASER 2023 report is titled "Beyond Basics." What does this likely refer to?**

- Advanced scientific concepts
- Vocational training skills
- Early childhood education
- Teacher training programs

## Answer Key

1 - (a)	2 - (a)	3 - (a)	4 - (b)
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## Answers & Explanations

**1. Correct Answer is (A)**

- The State of the Global Climate report is an annual publication released by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), which is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for promoting international cooperation in atmospheric science, climatology, hydrology, and geophysics.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**2. Correct Answer is (A)**

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Annual Status of Education Report (ASER) 2023, conducted by the civil society organization Pratham, reveals significant challenges in the foundational education of rural students aged 14 to 18 years. More than half of the surveyed students struggled with basic mathematics, a competency expected to be acquired by Classes 3 and 4. Approximately 25% of students in this age group were unable to read a Class 2 level text in their vernacular language. Only a small fraction (5.6%) of the surveyed students had pursued vocational training or related courses.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The survey observed an increasing trend in dropout rates with age. While 3.9% of 14-year-olds were not attending school, this percentage rose sharply to 32.6% among 18-year-olds.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**3. Correct Answer is (A)**

- The Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) is conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) every 5 years. It is designed to collect information on the consumption of goods and services by households in India, providing valuable insights into the spending patterns and living standards across the country.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**4. Correct Answer is (B)**

- The ASER reports typically focus on foundational literacy and numeracy skills. "Beyond Basics" suggests the report goes beyond these fundamentals. Vocational training skills align well with "Beyond Basics" as they represent practical skills that go beyond simply reading and writing. The ASER 2023 report, titled "Beyond Basics," likely explores how well these 14-18-year-olds are prepared to apply their knowledge and enter the workforce.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

## International Relations/Organizations

**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT) is an international agreement that prohibits nuclear weapons tests or any other nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water.
2. Nehru's advocacy for nuclear disarmament played a role in the establishment of the PTBT.
3. The PTBT has helped in the improvement in relations between the US and Russia.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.2) Consider the following statements with respect to Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET):**

1. It is a collaborative framework established by the United States and India to enhance cooperation in developing fields of technology.
2. Nuclear Technology Development is one of the focus areas under iCET.
3. It is led by the Ministry of External Affairs in India and the Department of State in the USA.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.3) If a country is designated as an Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) country for Indian citizens, then which one of the following does it imply?**

- a) Indian citizens need special clearance from the government to travel to that country.
- b) Indian citizens are not allowed to travel to that country for any reason.
- c) Indian citizens require emigration clearance before traveling to that country for employment purposes.
- d) Indian citizens are encouraged to travel to that country for employment opportunities.

**Q.4) Consider the following:**

1. Individuals
2. Businesses
3. Governments

**How many of the above entities can become targets of US sanctions?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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**Q.5) Consider the following statements with respect to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):**

1. It is an intergovernmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights globally.
2. It includes representatives from all 193 UN member states.
3. It works with Special Procedures, to monitor, advise, and publicly report on human rights situations in specific countries, or on major issues.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.6) With reference to the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), how many of the following statements are correct?**

1. It promotes political and military alliances between Muslim nations.
2. The OIC Charter emphasizes the importance of strict adherence to Sharia law in all member states.
3. Its membership is based on geographic proximity to the Arabian Peninsula.

**Select the correct Answer using the codes given below:**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.7) Consider the following statements:**

1. AUKUS is a security pact formed to counter China's growing influence in the Indo-Pacific region.
2. One of the pillars of the AUKUS focuses on joint development of advanced technologies such as quantum computing, artificial intelligence, and cyber technology.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.8) With reference to the Asian Development Bank (ADB), which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. It aims to promote economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific.
2. India is the largest shareholder in the ADB.
3. Pakistan is not a member country of the ADB.

**Select the correct answer using the codes give below:**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 1 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only



**Q.9) Which one of the following is NOT a primary function of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB)?**

- a) Monitoring and estimating genuine production, manufacture, international trade, and distribution of certain narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- b) Assessing the medical and scientific needs for narcotic substances.
- c) Assisting governments in fulfilling their obligations under international drug control treaties.
- d) Investigating and prosecuting international drug trafficking organizations.

**Q.10) The 'Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations' specifies the receiving state's responsibility for the safety of diplomatic posts and their personnel. This includes the responsibility to:**

- a) Allow diplomatic agents to depart the receiving state whenever they desire.
- b) Provide financial assistance to diplomatic missions for their operational costs.
- c) Take all appropriate measures to prevent any attack on the embassy's premises or personnel.
- d) Allow diplomatic agents to freely interfere in the internal affairs of the receiving state.

**Q.11) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. India is one of the member countries of the Arctic Council.
- 2. One of the reasons for India's interest in the Arctic region is the opportunity to trade via the Northern Sea Route.
- 3. India aims to cooperate with Arctic countries in green energy and clean industries.
- 4. India's engagement with the Arctic began with the signing of the Svalbard Treaty in 1920.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.12) Consider the following:**

- 1. Trademarks
- 2. Copyrights
- 3. Geographical Indications
- 4. Industrial designs
- 5. Foreign investment policies

**For how many of the above, the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) sets minimum standards of protection?**

- a) Only two
- b) Only three
- c) Only four
- d) All five

**Q.13) The Government of India, in collaboration with international organizations, has launched the Trees Outside of Forests India (TOFI) initiative. Which of the following states are involved in the implementation of the TOFI program?**

- a) Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh
- b) Punjab, Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, and Haryana
- c) Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand
- d) Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Andhra Pradesh

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**Q.14) Which one of the following is NOT a key focus of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development's (UNCTAD) work?**

- a) Trade policy analysis and recommendations
- b) Promoting investment flows and technology transfer to developing countries
- c) Assisting developing countries in commodity trade negotiations
- d) Providing legal aid in international trade disputes

**Q.15) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Look East Policy prioritized relations with ASEAN nations, while Act East Policy includes a wider range of East Asian countries.
- 2. The South China Sea is crucial for regional security and the global maritime order.
- 3. India promotes a rules-based international maritime order, with a particular emphasis on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.16) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. According to International Criminal Law, targeted killings refer to purposefully and systematically assassinating people seen as enemies by a country.
- 2. Article 51 of the UN Charter provides for the right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.17) With reference to the Arab League Initiative 2002 (Arab Peace Initiative), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It was primarily concerned with resolving the conflict between Israel and Iran.
- 2. Complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all occupied territories was a key condition of the Arab League Initiative.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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### Q.18) Consider the following statements:

1. A two-thirds majority vote in the UN General Assembly and no veto in the Security Council is required for a state to be granted full-member status at the United Nations.
2. The Economic and Social Council is primarily responsible for the initial recommendation of a state for UN membership.
3. If a permanent member of the UN Security Council vetoes the membership application of a state, then the application is rejected and cannot be reconsidered.
4. In order to become a UN member, the state must have a democratic form of government.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

### Q.19) With reference to the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) Asia Pacific, consider the following statements:

1. It aims to power a transition away from our current linear and extractive economy and towards a circular system which supports people's right to a safe and healthy environment.
2. It advocates for policies that support incineration technologies in the Asia Pacific.

### Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.20) A type of international agreement, that encourages cross-border investments by reducing the tax burden on international businesses, is known as:

- a) Free Trade Agreement
- b) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement
- c) Bilateral Investment Treaty
- d) Mutual Recognition Agreement

### Q.21) Consider the following statements:

1. India has the third-largest seafaring workforce in the world.
2. 'Human Rights at Sea' initiative has been launched by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to address the concerns and challenges faced by Indian seafarers.
3. International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Legal Committee (LEG) consider and develop international legal instruments for maritime safety and pollution prevention.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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**Q.22) With reference to the Group of Seven (G-7), consider the following statements:**

1. Its objective is to coordinate economic policies of member states.
2. Countries must have advanced economies and high net national wealth in order to become the members of G-7.
3. The G-7 has addressed the issue of climate change by banning the use of fossil fuels in member countries.
4. The G-7 influences the global economy through collective decision-making that can influence global economic policies and financial markets.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.23) How many of the following ASEAN member countries are also part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations?**

1. Malaysia
2. Singapore
3. Indonesia
4. Thailand

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.24) Consider the following statements regarding the relationship between ASEAN and India:**

1. India is a full member of ASEAN.
2. India and ASEAN have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in goods, services, and investment.
3. The ASEAN-India strategic partnership was upgraded during the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held in 2012.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

## Answer Key

1 - (a)	2 - (a)	3 - (c)	4 - (c)	5 - (b)	6 - (d)	7 - (c)	8 - (b)
9 - (d)	10 - (c)	11 - (c)	12 - (c)	13 - (a)	14 - (d)	15 - (d)	16 - (b)
17 - (b)	18 - (a)	19 - (a)	20 - (b)	21 - (c)	22 - (c)	23 - (b)	24 - (b)

## Answers & Explanations

### 1. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), also known as the Limited Test Ban Treaty or the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water, is an international agreement that prohibits nuclear weapons tests or any other nuclear explosions in the atmosphere, in outer space, and under water. Nehru's advocacy for nuclear disarmament played a role in the establishment of the PTBT. The treaty was signed in 1963 by the United States, the Soviet Union, and the United Kingdom, along with India and Nehru's efforts for nuclear disarmament contributed to the treaty's creation.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The PTBT has not directly led to a significant improvement in relations between the US and Russia. While the treaty has been a milestone in nonproliferation efforts and has contributed to reducing radioactive particles in the atmosphere, it has not been a direct factor in improving relations between the US and Russia.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 2. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The United States-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) is a collaborative framework established by the United States and India to enhance cooperation in developing fields of technology, including artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors, and wireless telecommunication.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. Nuclear Technology Development is not one of the primary focus areas under the iCET. The initiative primarily targets cooperation in critical and emerging technologies such as AI, quantum computing, semiconductors, and wireless telecommunication. The iCET initiative is not led by the Ministry of External Affairs in India and the Department of State in the USA. It involves high-level officials from various departments, including the National Security Councils of both countries, the Department of Defense, the Department of Commerce, and other relevant agencies, to coordinate and advance cooperation in critical and emerging technologies.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 3. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Emigration Clearance Required (ECR) category is determined by the Indian government to protect the rights and welfare of Indian citizens traveling abroad for employment purposes, particularly to countries where labor laws and protections may not be as stringent. This requirement ensures that Indian citizens have the necessary clearance and support from the government before taking up employment opportunities in designated ECR countries.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 4. Correct Answer is (C)

- All three entities—Individuals, Businesses, and Governments—can become targets of US sanctions. US sanctions can be imposed on a wide range of entities to further foreign policy and national security objectives. These sanctions can target individuals, such as key political figures or persons engaged in malign activities; businesses, including companies involved in sanctionable activities or sectors; and governments, particularly those deemed to be hostile or engaging in actions that threaten US interests.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



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### 5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) is an intergovernmental body that works within the United Nations system to promote and protect human rights worldwide. It addresses human rights violations, makes recommendations, and provides technical assistance to governments. The UNHRC works with various mechanisms, including Special Procedures, to monitor and investigate human rights situations in specific countries or thematic issues. Special Procedures involve independent human rights experts who address concerns through country visits, communications with governments and other stakeholders, and thematic reports on specific human rights issues. One of the key functions of the UNHRC is the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which assesses the human rights situations in all 193 UN member states. The UPR is designed to ensure equal treatment for every country when their human rights situations are assessed.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The UNHRC has a rotating membership of 47 states elected by the UN General Assembly. These member states serve three-year terms and are chosen based on regional representation.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are incorrect. The OIC's primary focus is on promoting unity, solidarity, and collaboration among its member states in various areas, including economic, social, cultural, and scientific fields. The OIC does not have an explicit focus on creating political and military alliances. The OIC Charter respects the diversity of its member states. While it aims to protect Islamic values, it does not mandate strict adherence to Sharia Law across all members. Membership in the OIC is open to countries with a significant Muslim population, not based on geographic proximity to the Arabian Peninsula. There are 57 member states, spread across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and even South America.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 7. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. AUKUS, a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, was established in 2021 to address China's increasing power in the Indo-Pacific region and strengthen security cooperation among the member countries. The pact has two main pillars. The first involves delivering nuclear-powered attack submarines to Australia. The second, known as "Pillar Two," focuses on joint development of advanced technologies such as quantum computing, undersea capabilities, hypersonics, artificial intelligence, and cyber technology.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank that focuses on reducing poverty and promoting sustainable economic growth in Asia and the Pacific.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The largest shareholders of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) are Japan and the United States, with 15.6% of total shares each. Pakistan is a founding member of the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 9. Correct Answer is (D)

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- Investigating and prosecuting international drug trafficking organizations is not a primary function of the INCB. This responsibility typically falls under the purview of national law enforcement agencies and international organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). INCB was established in 1968. This board is the independent and quasi-judicial monitoring body for the implementation of the United Nations international drug control conventions. It consists of 13 members who are elected by the Economic and Social Council. The members serve in their personal capacity and are not government representatives.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 10. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations is an international treaty that sets out the rules and guidelines for diplomatic interactions between countries. One important aspect of this treaty is the obligation of the host country (receiving state) to ensure the safety and security of diplomatic missions (embassies, consulates) and their personnel (diplomats, staff).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 11. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. India is not a member country of the Arctic Council. However, India has observer status in the Arctic Council since 2013, along with other countries like China, Japan, and South Korea.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. The Northern Sea Route, which connects the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans along Russia's northern coast, offers significant potential as a shipping route. With climate change causing Arctic Sea ice to melt, this route may become more accessible, reducing the time and costs associated with shipping between Europe and Asia. This presents opportunities for countries like India to explore new trading possibilities. India's engagement with the Arctic region extends beyond trade and economic interests. India has expressed its commitment to working with Arctic countries to address climate change, promote clean energy, and collaborate on sustainable development. India's Arctic Policy also emphasizes scientific research, environmental protection, and international cooperation in the region. India's formal engagement with the Arctic can be traced back to the signing of the Svalbard Treaty in 1920, which granted India access to the resources and scientific research opportunities in the Svalbard archipelago in the Arctic Ocean. Moreover, India launched its first Arctic research mission in 2007 and established an Arctic research base in 2008, becoming the only developing country besides China to do so.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 12. Correct Answer is (C)

- TRIPS is an international agreement administered by the World Trade Organization (WTO) that establishes basic standards for the protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights. It sets minimum standards of protection for Trademarks, Copyrights, Geographical Indications, Industrial Designs among others. Foreign investment policies, however, are not directly covered under the TRIPS agreement.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 13. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Trees Outside of Forests India (TOFI) program is a joint initiative between the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate

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Change (MoEFCC) of the Government of India. It is implemented by a consortium led by CIFOR-ICRAF and spans from 2021 to 2026. The program's primary goal is to increase the area under trees outside of traditional forest areas while improving livelihoods and ecosystem services in the seven participating states: Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Haryana, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and Uttar Pradesh.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 14. Correct Answer is (D)

- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) is a permanent intergovernmental body established in 1964 as a part of the United Nations Secretariat. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, and has a membership of 195 member states. UNCTAD's primary mission is to promote the integration of developing countries into the global economy and to help them overcome the challenges they face in the realm of trade and development. The organization focuses on various core areas such as trade, investment, technology, entrepreneurship, finance, and sustainable development. While UNCTAD does provide technical assistance and capacity building to developing countries on various aspects of international trade, including resolving trade disputes, it does not directly provide legal aid in trade disputes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 15. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The Look East Policy prioritized relations with ASEAN nations, focusing on economic integration, while the Act East Policy includes a wider range of East Asian countries and extends to security cooperation, reflecting a broader geographical scope. The South China Sea is crucial for regional security and the global maritime order, affecting principles like freedom of navigation and overflight, which are vital for trade and energy transportation routes for India and other global players. India actively promotes a rules-based international maritime order and places particular emphasis on the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), advocating for adherence to international maritime laws.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 16. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. There is no clear, legal definition in international law of targeted killings. Further, International Criminal Law does not explicitly define targeted killings in those terms.
- Statement 2 is correct. Article 51 of the UN Charter recognizes the inherent right of individual or collective self-defense if an armed attack occurs against a UN member state. This right is recognized until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security, and any measures taken in self-defense must be reported to the Security Council. It is essential to note that any use of force in self-defense must be proportional and in accordance with other international law principles.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 17. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Arab Peace Initiative was specifically focused on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It aimed to establish an independent Palestinian state and resolve the issue of Palestinian refugees.

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- Statement 2 is correct. One of the core demands of the initiative was the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from all Arab territories occupied since 1967. This includes the Golan Heights, West Bank, and Gaza Strip.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 18. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. A two-thirds majority vote in the General Assembly and no veto from a permanent member of the Security Council are required for a state to achieve full membership.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are incorrect. The Security Council is primarily responsible for the initial recommendation of a state for UN membership, not the Economic and Social Council. While a veto from a permanent member can block an application, it doesn't guarantee permanent rejection. The application can be resubmitted later. There's no requirement for a democratic government for UN membership. The UN Charter focuses on peace-loving states and their ability to fulfill the obligations of membership.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 19. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. GAIA Asia Pacific is part of the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives, a network of organizations and individuals working towards a more sustainable and just approach to waste management. Their goal is to promote zero waste strategies and a circular economy, moving away from linear and extractive systems that contribute to pollution and environmental degradation. They also support people's right to a safe and healthy environment.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. GAIA Asia Pacific does not support incineration technologies, as incineration contributes to air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, and other negative environmental impacts. Instead, GAIA promotes waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and other alternatives to incineration that align with the principles of a circular economy and environmental justice.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 20. Correct Answer is (B)

- Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) are specifically designed to prevent the same income from being taxed by two or more jurisdictions. This is achieved by allocating the taxing rights between the source country (where the income is earned) and the residence country (where the income recipient is based). By reducing the tax burden, these agreements encourage cross-border investments and economic cooperation between countries.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. India provides 9.35% of the global seafarers and ranks third in the list of the largest seafarer supplying nations to the world maritime industry. The 'Human Rights at Sea' initiative has been launched by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in collaboration with the Indian government to address the challenges faced by Indian seafarers, such as non-payment of wages, abandonment, illegal detentions, and piracy. The IMO Legal Committee deals with legal matters within the scope of the organization, including the development of international legal instruments concerning maritime safety and pollution prevention.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 22. Correct Answer is (C)

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- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. One of the primary objectives of the Group of Seven (G7) is to coordinate the economic policies of its member states. The group aims to facilitate economic cooperation and address various global issues, including economic growth and stability. The G7 comprises the world's leading advanced economies and requires member countries to have a high net national wealth, which reflects their economic strength and development. The current G7 member countries—Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the United States—were chosen based on their economic prominence and political influence during the 1970s when the group was formed. Though there is no formal process for adding new members, the existing members may consider inviting other countries with significant economic and political clout to join the group in the future. The G7 holds significant influence over the global economy through collective decision-making, as their combined economic output represents a substantial portion of global gross domestic product (GDP). G7's decisions on economic policies, trade, and other financial matters can impact global markets and economies.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The G7 has not banned the use of fossil fuels in member countries. Instead, the G7 has focused on commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to invest in sustainable development, among other initiatives to address climate change.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 23. Correct Answer is (B)

- Malaysia and Singapore are part of the TPP negotiations. Indonesia and Thailand are not part of this trade agreement, which aims to deepen economic ties between Asia-Pacific nations by reducing tariffs and fostering trade to boost growth.

Source: [NewsonAir](#)

### 24. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. India and ASEAN have established a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement covering goods, services, and investment, which significantly enhances economic ties and facilitates smoother trade and investment flows. The ASEAN-India strategic partnership was indeed upgraded during the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in 2012, marking a significant step in strengthening relations and cooperation across various sectors. Statement 1 is incorrect; India is not a full member of ASEAN but a very important strategic partner and participates in several of ASEAN's regional forums and summits, such as the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and East Asia Summit.



## Economy

**Q.1) Consider the following:**

1. Population
2. Area
3. Income distance
4. Poverty level
5. Forest and ecology
6. Disaster vulnerability

**How many of the above criteria were used by the Fifteenth Finance Commission when designing the tax transfer formula?**

- a) Only three
- b) Only four
- c) Only five
- d) All six

**Q.2) Consider the following statements:**

1. Personal loans dominate the lending activities of banks, comprising the largest share.
2. The Digital India Trust Agency is committed to promoting digital literacy and skills development initiatives to ensure equitable participation in the digital economy.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.3) The Purchasing Manager's Index (PMI) is a useful indicator for:**

- a) Predicting stock market performance
- b) Understanding consumer spending habits
- c) Measuring the outlook of businesses and analyzing possible economic trends.
- d) Measuring individual company profitability

**Q.4) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Reserve Bank was set up on April 1, 1935 in Calcutta as a joint stock company.
2. The RBI is tasked with providing agricultural subsidies and grants to farmers for crop cultivation directly into their accounts.
3. The RBI is often referred to as the "banker's bank" because it sets interest rates for loans between banks.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

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### Q.5) Consider the following statements:

1. Tax evasion focuses on income tax, while tax avoidance applies to other types of taxes.
2. The Goods and Services Tax (GST) does not cover electricity and petroleum products.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.6) The Price-to-Earnings (PE) ratio measures:

- a) The company's market capitalization divided by its annual earnings
- b) The company's annual revenue divided by its market capitalization
- c) The company's annual earnings divided by its market capitalization
- d) The company's annual earnings divided by its annual revenue

### Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. India's seafood exports have increased in recent years.
2. India has emerged as one of the world's largest 'shrimp' exporters.
3. In India, Kerala alone account for almost 70% of India's shrimp output.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

### Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. In India, the power to raise taxes rests largely with the Union government while a greater part of the overall government spending is done by the State governments.
2. The RBI's classification of developmental expenditures includes interest payments, pensions, and subsidies, all of which have seen a decline in spending by the Union government.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. The largest export destination for India's bulk drugs is Canada.
2. China plays a major role in supplying bulk drugs to India's advanced pharmaceutical sector.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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**Q.10) Which one of the following is the main purpose of Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCD)?**

- a) Provide a medium of exchange for international trade
- b) Speculate on changes in currency exchange rates
- c) Stabilize currency values in the global exchange market
- d) Facilitate direct currency conversion between different countries

**Q.11) Which one of the following is the probable impact of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) keeping the repo rate unchanged?**

- a) Immediate increase in home loan equated monthly installments' (EMIs)
- b) Decrease in the interest rates on fixed deposits
- c) Stability in the equated monthly installments (EMIs) for existing loans
- d) Sudden decrease in the cost of borrowing for banks

**Q.12) Which one of the following is the primary objective of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI's) 'Retail Direct Scheme'?**

- a) Facilitate direct investment in private corporate bonds by individual investors
- b) Enable individual investors to directly invest in Government Securities without intermediaries
- c) Provide a platform for trading in international securities
- d) Offer a new digital currency for retail transactions

**Q.13) With reference to Sovereign Green Bonds, consider the following statements:**

1. They are generally issued at a lower interest rate compared to traditional bonds.
2. These are issued by the private companies focused on sustainability initiatives.
3. They contribute to the development and standardization of green finance practices.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.14) Which one of the following represents the total market value of financial assets managed by a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)?**

- a) Total Liabilities
- b) Net Profit
- c) Assets Under Management (AUM)
- d) Shareholder Equity

**Q.15) An increasing household debt along with decreasing net financial savings implies:**

- a) Enhanced financial stability
- b) Economic growth acceleration
- c) Reduced consumer spending
- d) Increase in disposable income

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**Q.16) In the context of Startup, the term 'Funding Winters', refers to –**

- a) A period of increased investor activity and readily available funding.
- b) A period of economic recession that leads to a decrease in investor confidence and available funding for startups.
- c) A specific government program designed to provide financial support to early-stage startups.
- d) A shift in investors focus towards more established companies with proven track records.

**Q.17) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** In the recent interim Budget, the government has consolidated capital allocation for the three-Armed Services based on similar expenditure items.

**Statement-II:** Consolidation is expected to expedite decision-making and ensure better utilization of the capital budget in the armed services.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Q.18) A rise in U.S. interest rates can lead to:**

- a) Increased foreign investment inflow into India.
- b) A weaker Indian Rupee compared to the U.S. Dollar.
- c) Lower borrowing costs for Indian businesses.
- d) Faster economic growth in India.

**Q.19) A country experiences a decline in overall retail inflation but a simultaneous rise in food prices.**

**This situation suggests a rise in:**

- a) Overall cost of living
- b) Spending power
- c) Production of food items
- d) Availability of manufactured goods

**Q.20) Consider the following:**

1. Manufacturing
2. Mining
3. Electricity
4. Agriculture

**How many of the above sectors are included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) calculation?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

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**Q.21) Which one of the following statements best describes the 'core inflation' and its relevance in economic policy formulation?**

- a) Core inflation is a measure of inflation that includes all items in the consumer price index (CPI), including those with volatile prices such as food and energy, to provide a comprehensive overview of inflationary trends.
- b) Core inflation is the change in the costs of goods and services, including seasonal elements such as food and energy, and is primarily used to assess short-term inflationary rise and guide immediate fiscal policy adjustments.
- c) Core inflation is a measure of inflation that excludes items having volatile prices, such as fuel and food, from the price index being used, to assess the underlying trend of prices and guide long-term economic strategies.
- d) Core inflation represents the immediate impact of monetary policy measures on the price level of luxury goods and services, excluding necessities, to determine the effectiveness of central bank interventions.

**Q.22) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The dedicated freight corridor is expected to increase carbon dioxide emissions, due to the increased number of freight trains.
- 2. The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) which extends from Punjab to Bihar, is fully operational.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.23) Consider the following:**

- 1. Narrowing Current Account Deficit (CAD)
- 2. Rise in Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- 3. Depreciation of the Rupee

**How many of the above are the likely outcomes for India when it experiences an increase in exports and a decrease in imports (trade surplus)?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.24) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs) are government debts specifically aimed at funding projects that facilitate transition to a low carbon economy.
- 2. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) are eligible to invest in India's Sovereign Green Bonds (SGrBs).
- 3. SGrBs offer higher interest rates compared to conventional G-Secs.
- 4. Greenium is the term used to describe the process of converting traditional bonds into green bonds.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 3 only
- b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- c) 1 and 2 only
- d) 1, 2 and 4 only



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**Q.25) In the context of Imported Inflation, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. Imported inflation is caused by excessive government spending on domestic infrastructure projects, leading to higher demand for imported goods.
2. A decline in the value of a country's currency is also a factor behind imported inflation.

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.26) Consider the following statements:**

1. Public Stockholding Programs (PSH) encourages unsustainable agricultural practices that harm the environment and degrade natural resources.
2. Minimum Support Price (MSP) is intended to guarantee a minimum income for farmers and incentivize them to produce essential food grains.
3. The World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Agriculture allows developing countries, including India, to subsidize their farmers up to 10% of the value of their agricultural production.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.27) Which one of the following economic indicators is negatively impacted by a trade deficit?**

- a) Gross Domestic Product (GDP)
- b) Consumer Price Index (CPI)
- c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)
- d) Unemployment rate

**Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to the Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF):**

1. It is a component of GDP that shows how much new value added in an economy is invested rather than consumed.
2. GFCF is crucial because it directly contributes to the production capacity of an economy, influencing both economic growth and living standards.
3. Purchases of stocks and bonds are included in GFCF.
4. In national accounting, GFCF is considered as a form of investment expenditure.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.29) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** The current gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) in India is below 0.7% of GDP.

**Statement-II:** There is lack of required private sector investment in research and development (R&D) in India.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Q.30) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. Disinflation refers to a situation where specific goods and services decrease in price while others increase.
- 2. Disinflation is a reduction in the rate of inflation, while deflation is a decrease in the overall price level.
- 3. Disinflation increases purchasing power for consumers.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.31) Consider the following:**

- 1. Capital Gains Tax
- 2. Goods and Services Tax (GST)
- 3. Securities Transaction Tax (STT)
- 4. Excise duty

**How many of the above are included in the 'direct taxes' in India?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.32) If the Reserve Bank of India adopts a tight monetary policy, which one of the following is the likely immediate impact on household net financial savings?**

- a) Increase due to higher interest rates on savings
- b) Decrease due to higher borrowing costs
- c) No change, as monetary policy does not affect savings
- d) Increase due to higher disposable income

**Q.33) Which one of the following is the primary objective of an Infrastructure Investment Trust (InvIT)?**

- a) Invest in real estate projects and generate rental income.
- b) Pool investor funds and provide a stable return through infrastructure projects.
- c) Offer tax benefits to companies investing in infrastructure development.
- d) Directly finance and manage construction of new infrastructure projects.

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### Q.34) Consider the following statements:

1. India's economic growth has resulted in significant advancements in human development.
2. The twin objectives of high economic growth and reduction of inequality can only be achieved with improvements in human development and poverty reduction.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.35) Which one of the following tools is most likely be used by a central bank to implement a disinflationary monetary policy?

- a) Lowering the cash reserve requirement ratio (CRR).
- b) Increasing the interest rate (repo rate).
- c) Purchasing government bonds in the open market.
- d) Printing more money to directly inject liquidity.

### Q.36) Consider the following statements:

1. The Indian government's "Make in India" initiative aims to attract foreign enterprises by improving the Ease of Doing Business index rankings and offering schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI).
2. The "Lewis two-sector model" suggests that for a country to specialize in a specific export, it must have a lower opportunity cost to produce the good than other nations.

Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.37) Which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?

1. Horticultural crops provide valuable for small and marginal farmers because they are less labor-intensive than field crops.
2. Gujarat is the predominant producer and exporter of white onions in the country.

Select the correct answer using the codes given below:

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.38) Consider the following statements:

1. Payment Aggregators (PAs) are entities that settle payments from customers to merchants, allowing merchants to avoid creating their own payment systems.
2. PAs are used for in-person point-of-sale (PoS) transactions.
3. As per the new RBI's proposed guidelines, the minimum net worth required for non-banking entities providing offline payment aggregator services must be ₹10 crore when applying for authorisation.

How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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**Q.39) With reference to the advantages of the Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) status in the gem and jewellery sector, consider the following statements:**

1. AEO status enhances the international credibility of firms, making them more attractive to potential global partners.
2. Firms with AEO status are prioritized for government subsidies in the gem and jewellery sector.
3. The AEO status provides firms with legal protection against customs and trade disputes.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.40) Consider the following functions performed by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI):**

1. Granting licenses to food businesses.
2. Regulating the use of food additives.
3. Enforcing food safety laws across India.

**How many of the above functions are responsibilities of FSSAI?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

### Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (a)	3 - (c)	4 - (c)	5 - (b)	6 - (a)	7 - (a)	8 - (a)	9 - (b)	10 - (b)
11 - (c)	12 - (b)	13 - (c)	14 - (c)	15 - (c)	16 - (b)	17 - (a)	18 - (b)	19 - (a)	20 - (c)
21 - (c)	22 - (b)	23 - (b)	24 - (c)	25 - (b)	26 - (b)	27 - (a)	28 - (c)	29 - (a)	30 - (b)
31 - (b)	32 - (b)	33 - (b)	34 - (b)	35 - (b)	36 - (a)	37 - (b)	38 - (b)	39 - (a)	40 - (c)

### Answers & Explanations

**1. Correct Answer is (B)**

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission used six criteria when designing the tax transfer formula. These criteria included: population (15%), area (15%), income distance (45%), demographic transition (12.5%), forest and ecology (10%) and tax effort (2.5%). The Fifteenth Finance Commission was

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constituted by the Government of India in November 2017 under the leadership of Nand Kishore Singh, with the objective of giving recommendations for devolution of taxes and other fiscal matters.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 2. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Recent trends suggest that personal loans have overtaken other types of lending, making up the largest portion of banks' credit portfolios. The personal loan portfolio of banks saw significant growth, reaching Rs 52.7 lakh crore and now accounts for a third of total bank credit.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Digital India Trust Agency (DIGITA) proposed by the RBI is primarily focused on combating the proliferation of illegal lending apps and promoting transparency and accountability in digital lending.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

### 3. Correct Answer is (C)

- The Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) is a widely used indicator to measure the outlook of businesses and analyze potential economic trends. Based on monthly surveys of purchasing managers in various industries, the PMI offers an overview of the prevailing economic conditions, potential future developments, and the overall health of the manufacturing, services, and construction sectors.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

### 4. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was established on April 1, 1935, in Calcutta as a joint stock company under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The RBI is often referred to as the "banker's bank" because it functions as the banker for commercial banks in India, maintaining their accounts, regulating their operations, and setting key interest rates such as the repo rate, reverse repo rate, and marginal standing facility rate. These rates influence the cost of funds for banks and, consequently, the interest rates banks charge for loans.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The RBI is not directly tasked with providing agricultural subsidies and grants to farmers for crop cultivation into their accounts. The responsibility for providing agricultural subsidies lies with the central and state governments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Tax evasion and tax avoidance are not distinguished by the type of tax they focus on. Tax evasion refers to illegal practices where individuals or entities deliberately misrepresent their income or financial information to reduce their tax liability. On the other hand, tax avoidance involves exploiting legal loopholes or using creative accounting methods to minimize the amount of tax owed. Both tax evasion and tax avoidance can apply to various types of taxes, including income tax, sales tax, or property tax.
- Statement 2 is correct. As of now, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) does not cover electricity and petroleum products. While GST has consolidated multiple indirect taxes, some items are still outside its purview. Alcohol for human consumption, as well as petroleum products such as diesel, petrol, natural gas, and aviation turbine fuel, are kept out of GST. Additionally, electricity is also not covered under GST, as these items have significant revenue implications for both the central and state governments.



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Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (A)

- The Price-to-Earnings (PE) ratio is a financial metric used to evaluate a company's stock price relative to its earnings per share. It is calculated by dividing the company's current market capitalization (or market value) by its annual earnings (or net income). In simpler terms, the PE ratio indicates how much investors are willing to pay for a company's shares for each unit of earnings. A higher PE ratio suggests that investors are paying more for the company's earnings, which could indicate higher expectations for future growth.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 7. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India's seafood exports have increased in recent years. In 2022-23, India's seafood exports stood at \$8.09 billion. India has emerged as one of the world's largest shrimp exporters and its share in the U.S. market has risen from 21%, or \$1.3 billion, to 40% in 2022-23. The United States is a major importer of Indian shrimp. India is a net exporter of seafood. India is the world's fourth-largest seafood exporter, third-largest fish producer, and second-largest aquaculture producer.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Andhra Pradesh alone account for almost 70% of India's shrimp output. About 70% of the roughly eight million jobs in this sector are held by women. This includes around two lakhs working in hatcheries and aquaculture farms, with the rest employed in processing and freezing units.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 8. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. In India, the Union government holds primary responsibility for raising taxes. The Constitution empowers the central government to levy taxes on income (except agricultural income), customs duties, excise duties on goods (other than alcoholic beverages and narcotics), and GST. State governments are primarily responsible for spending on subjects under the State List and Concurrent List, including healthcare, agriculture, education, and social welfare, leading to a greater share of overall government spending.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The RBI's classification of developmental expenditures focuses on social services, economic services, and certain components of rural development. These expenditures contribute to the social and economic development of the country. Interest payments, pensions, and subsidies typically fall under the non-developmental category. Over the last two decades, there has been a significant increase in the developmental and social service expenditures by State governments. Conversely, the Union government's social and developmental spending has remained relatively stable. The Union government allocates more funds to defence, transport, urban development, and energy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The largest export destination of bulk drugs from India is the US, followed by Brazil, Bangladesh, Turkey, China, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Vietnam, and Egypt. India is also among the top five suppliers of bulk drugs to many developing countries, like, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Vietnam, Egypt, Iran, and Pakistan. China is a larger supplier, but India is also a substantial exporter.

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- Statement 2 is correct. India has one of the most advanced pharmaceutical industries among developing countries, being the third largest in the world in volume terms and the 13th largest in value. However, it is critically dependent on China for supplies of bulk drugs and drug intermediates, with China accounting for about two-thirds of the total imports.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 10. Correct Answer is (B)

- The main purpose of Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCD) is to speculate on changes in currency exchange rates. ETCDs are financial instruments traded on stock exchanges that allow investors to gain exposure to currency movements without directly trading in the foreign exchange market. These derivatives enable investors and traders to speculate on the future direction of currency exchange rates and potentially profit from such movements. Additionally, ETCDs can also be used for hedging purposes to mitigate the risk associated with currency fluctuations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 11. Correct Answer is (C)

- When the RBI keeps the repo rate unchanged, it signifies that the central bank is maintaining its current stance on monetary policy. This decision can lead to stability in interest rates for existing loans, resulting in no immediate changes to the EMIs that borrowers are currently paying. Borrowers continue to pay the same EMIs as before, providing them with stability in their repayment obligations. If the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increases the repo rate, banks may raise their lending rates, which can lead to an increase in the interest rate on floating-rate loans. This, in turn, can result in higher EMIs for borrowers, as the cost of borrowing increases. However, for loans with a fixed interest rate, the interest rate remains constant throughout the loan tenure, regardless of changes in the market interest rates or the repo rate.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 12. Correct Answer is (B)

- The primary objective of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) Retail Direct Scheme is to enable individual investors to directly invest in Government Securities without intermediaries. The Retail Direct Scheme was introduced to provide a platform for individual investors to directly access and invest in Government Securities (G-Secs), including treasury bills and government bonds. By allowing direct participation, the scheme aims to broaden the investor base and enhance retail participation in the government securities market, while also providing a safe and secure investment avenue for individuals.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 13. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Sovereign Green Bonds are typically issued at lower interest rates compared to traditional bonds due to their association with environmental and sustainability projects, which often attract socially responsible investors and institutions. Sovereign Green Bonds play a significant role in developing and standardizing green finance practices by establishing a framework for financing sustainable and environmental projects, such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable agriculture initiatives.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Sovereign Green Bonds are issued by governments or government-backed entities, not private companies. The term "Sovereign" implies a government issuer. Private companies can issue their own green bonds, but those are referred to as Corporate Green Bonds.

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Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 14. Correct Answer is (C)

- Assets Under Management refers to the total market value of the financial assets that an NBFC manages on behalf of its clients or investors. AUM is a key metric for assessing the size and success of an NBFC, as it indicates the company's ability to attract and manage client investments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 15. Correct Answer is (C)

- When household debt increases, it indicates that people are borrowing more money, possibly due to declining income or rising expenses. This increased borrowing can result in a higher proportion of income being allocated to debt repayment, leaving less disposable income for other purposes. Decreasing net financial savings suggests that people are either saving less or dipping into their existing savings, which could be due to financial strains or increased expenses. Together, these trends can lead to reduced consumer spending, as people have less disposable income and may need to prioritize debt repayment and savings over discretionary spending. This reduction in consumer spending can have broader implications for the economy, as it may lead to slower growth in sectors that rely on consumer demand.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 16. Correct Answer is (B)

- Funding Winters refers to a period characterized by a decline in venture capital investment and overall funding opportunities for startups. During this time, investors tend to be more cautious with their investments due to economic uncertainty or other factors that may affect the startup ecosystem. Consequently, it becomes more challenging for early-stage startups to secure the necessary funding for their growth and development. The duration of a funding winter is unpredictable. It may last for a long time depending on the multiple factors acting upon it. It can take place due to geopolitical unrest, or monetary policies and financial irregularities in a country.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 17. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement-I is correct. In the recent interim Budget, the government has decided to consolidate capital allocation for the three-Armed Services based on similar expenditure items, such as land, aircraft and aeroengines, and heavy and medium vehicles.
- Statement-II is correct. This new mechanism is expected to expedite decision-making and ensure better utilization of the capital budget. It also aims to bring financial management flexibility, allowing the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to reappropriate funds among the services based on inter-Service priorities.
- Hence, Statement-II is a correct explanation for Statement-I.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 18. Correct Answer is (B)

- When the U.S. interest rates rise, it can lead to a stronger U.S. Dollar compared to other currencies, including the Indian Rupee. This happens because higher interest rates attract investors to park their money in U.S. financial instruments, thereby increasing demand for the U.S. Dollar.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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### 19. Correct Answer is (A)

- When a country experiences a decline in overall retail inflation but a simultaneous rise in food prices, it suggests that the cost of living is increasing, especially for the average consumer. This is because a significant portion of an individual's income is typically spent on food, and a rise in food prices directly affects their purchasing power and financial well-being.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 20. Correct Answer is (C)

- Agriculture is not included in the IIP calculation, as it falls outside the scope of industrial production. The IIP is an index that measures the growth of various industrial sectors in an economy and is used to track industrial performance and economic growth over time.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 21. Correct Answer is (C)

- Core inflation is an essential metric that policymakers use to understand the fundamental drivers of inflation by removing the effects of temporary price fluctuations. By excluding volatile items like food and energy, core inflation provides a more stable measure of inflation, helping policymakers design and implement appropriate economic strategies for sustainable growth and price stability in the long term.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 22. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The dedicated freight corridor is expected to decrease carbon dioxide emissions in the long run. This is because Dedicated freight corridors are designed for faster and more efficient movement of goods trains. This reduces traffic congestion on regular passenger lines, leading to fewer delays and improved fuel efficiency. Additionally, dedicated corridors allow for the use of electric locomotives, further reducing reliance on diesel and its associated emissions.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC) stretches 1,337 km from Ludhiana, Punjab to Sonnagar, Bihar and is fully operational. The Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) extends 1,506 km from Jawaharlal Nehru Port Terminal, Maharashtra to Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, with 88% operational. Both EDFC and WDFC are operated by the Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation of India Ltd. (DFCCIL).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 23. Correct Answer is (B)

- Narrowing Current Account Deficit (CAD): An increase in exports and a decrease in imports contribute to narrowing the current account deficit by improving the trade balance. This occurs because exports bring in foreign currency while imports require domestic currency, thus reducing the deficit in the balance of payments.
- Rise in Gross Domestic Product (GDP): The increase in exports reflects higher economic activity and production within the country, which can lead to a rise in GDP. Exports contribute positively to GDP growth by generating income and employment opportunities, stimulating investment, and enhancing overall economic performance.
- Appreciation of the Rupee: A rise in exports and a decrease in imports can lead to an appreciation of the domestic currency due to increased demand for it in international markets.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



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### 24. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. SGrBs are issued to raise money for green infrastructure and initiatives that lower the economy's carbon footprint, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed eligible foreign investors, including FIIs, to invest in SGrBs.
- Statements 3 and 4 are incorrect. SGrBs typically offer lower interest rates than conventional G-Secs. "Greenium" refers to the lower yield (or higher price) that investors are willing to accept for green bonds compared to conventional bonds due to the environmental benefits of the projects funded by green bonds. Greenium refers to the difference in interest rates or yields between green bonds and conventional government securities (G-Secs).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 25. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Excessive government spending on domestic infrastructure projects may lead to increased demand for domestic goods and services rather than imported goods. This could result in higher domestic inflation but not necessarily imported inflation. Imported inflation occurs when the cost of imported goods and services increases, leading to a rise in the overall price level within a country. Imported inflation is a type of cost-push inflation that occurs when rising costs of imported inputs lead to higher production costs for businesses, resulting in inflation in the prices of final goods and services.
- Statement 2 is correct. When a country's currency loses value against other currencies, imports become more expensive because the same amount of domestic currency now buys fewer foreign goods and services. This can lead to higher domestic prices for imported products, contributing to imported inflation. Increases in interest rates in Western countries can lead to depreciation of developing countries' currencies against Western currencies, raising import costs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 26. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Public Stockholding Programs (PSH) are not inherently encouraging unsustainable agricultural practices. They are designed to support farmers' livelihoods, ensure food security, and promote rural development. While there can be concerns about the environmental impact of certain agricultural practices, PSH itself is not aimed at promoting unsustainable methods.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Minimum Support Price (MSP) is a policy tool used by the Government of India to insure farmers against any sharp fall in farm prices. It guarantees a minimum price for their produce, thus providing income security and incentivizing the production of essential food grains. The WTO Agreement on Agriculture allows developing countries to provide domestic support, including subsidies, up to de minimis levels, which are 10% of the value of their agricultural production for most developing countries.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 27. Correct Answer is (A)

- A trade deficit occurs when a country's imports exceed its exports, which can lead to a negative impact on the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This is because GDP is calculated as the sum of a nation's domestic production and its net exports (exports minus imports). When imports are greater than exports, the net exports figure is negative, which can reduce the overall GDP.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



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### 28. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF) is a component of GDP that reflects the value of acquisitions of new or existing fixed assets by the business sector, governments, and households, minus disposals of fixed assets. It indicates the amount of resources invested in fixed assets rather than consumed. GFCF is crucial as it contributes to the production capacity of an economy, which in turn influences economic growth and living standards. It measures the additions to the capital stock of buildings, equipment, and inventories, i.e., additions to the capacity to produce more goods and income in the future. In national accounting, GFCF is considered a form of investment expenditure. It includes outlays on additions to the fixed assets of the economy plus net changes in the level of inventories, indicating investment in the productive capacity of the economy.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Purchases of stocks and bonds are not included in GFCF. GFCF measures investment in physical assets and does not include financial assets such as stocks and bonds. It is concerned with the value of net additions to fixed assets, excluding financial assets.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 29. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement I: According to World Bank data, India's gross domestic expenditure on research and development (R&D) has been around 0.7% of GDP in recent years, which is a low number compared to many developed and developing economies.
- Statement II: Private sector investment in R&D is crucial for innovation and technological advancement. In India, a significant portion of R&D funding comes from the government sector, while private sector participation remains relatively low. This lack of private investment contributes to the overall low national expenditure on R&D.
- Therefore, Statement II explains the reason behind the situation described in Statement I.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 30. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Disinflation refers to a decrease in the rate of inflation, meaning that the overall increase in prices of goods and services is slowing down. It does not specifically refer to certain goods and services decreasing in price while others increase.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Disinflation occurs when the rate of inflation slows down, but prices are still rising, albeit at a slower pace. Deflation, on the other hand, happens when the overall price level decreases. Disinflation can lead to increased purchasing power for consumers because their money goes slightly further as the rate of price increase slows down. However, it's important to note that disinflation isn't always a positive development. In some cases, it might indicate a weakening economy.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 31. Correct Answer is (B)

- Direct taxes are:
- Capital Gains Tax - This is a direct tax on the profit that is realized from the sale of a non-inventory asset that was greater in value than the purchase price.
- Securities Transaction Tax (STT) - This is a direct tax levied on the value of securities (such as stocks) transacted through a recognized stock exchange.
- GST and excise duty are indirect taxes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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### 32. Correct Answer is (B)

- A tight monetary policy leads to higher interest rates, increasing the cost of borrowing. As borrowing costs rise, households may find it more expensive to finance purchases or investments through credit, leading to a reduction in net financial savings.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 33. Correct Answer is (B)

- InvITs are designed to enable direct investment from individual and institutional investors into infrastructure projects, providing them with a steady income through dividend distribution. They pool funds from various investors and invest in income-generating infrastructure projects, offering stability and predictability for investors seeking long-term investments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 34. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The Human Development Report (HDR) 2023-2024 ranked India 134 out of 193 countries. India is now the fifth largest economy but it still ranks lower than Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and Bangladesh in human development. Its economic growth has not translated into growth in human development.
- Statement 2 is correct. Achieving high economic growth and reducing inequality are interconnected goals that require a focus on improving human development and reducing poverty. By investing in education, healthcare, and job opportunities, a country can enhance the capabilities and productivity of its population, driving economic growth while addressing inequalities. A more inclusive and equitable distribution of resources and opportunities can lead to sustainable development and an improved quality of life for all citizens.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 35. Correct Answer is (B)

- Raising interest rates (like the repo rate) makes borrowing more expensive for banks and, in turn, consumers and businesses. This increase leads to a reduction in spending and investment, thus decreasing inflationary pressures.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 36. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The "Make in India" initiative is designed to attract foreign investments and enhance India's manufacturing sector. It includes improving the Ease of Doing Business to attract foreign enterprises and offering schemes like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) to boost domestic manufacturing and exports.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The Lewis two-sector model suggests that workers from the agricultural sector, who are often underproductive, should transition to the modern or manufacturing sector, where there is greater scope for productive work. Whereas, the Ricardian theory of comparative advantage states that for a country to specialize in a specific export, it must have a lower opportunity cost to produce the good than other nations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 37. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Horticultural crops are generally more labor-intensive than field crops. They often require more intensive management, including regular pruning, pest and disease control,

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and sometimes hand-harvesting. The value of horticultural crops for small and marginal farmers lies in their higher yield per hectare and potential for higher economic returns, not in being less labor-intensive.

- Statement 2 is correct. Gujarat is the predominant producer and exporter of white onions in India. The state contributes significantly to the country's overall onion production and plays a crucial role in meeting domestic demand and driving onion exports. Other major onion-producing states in India include Maharashtra and Karnataka.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 38. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Payment aggregators facilitate the transfer of funds from customers to merchants, which helps merchants by eliminating the need to develop and maintain their own payment processing systems. Payment aggregators are used for both online and offline transactions. While they can facilitate in-person point-of-sale transactions, they are also widely used for online e-commerce transactions.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. According to the new RBI's proposed guidelines, non-banking entities providing offline payment aggregator services must have a minimum net worth of ₹15 crore at the time of application, which is expected to increase to ₹25 crore by March 31, 2028. Prior guidelines regulated PAs only in online settings, like e-commerce. However, the new draft guidelines extend regulations to offline transactions by PAs.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 39. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct as AEO status does enhance a firm's international credibility by demonstrating compliance with global supply chain security standards, making them more attractive to partners.
- Statement 2 is incorrect because government subsidies are not directly linked to AEO status.
- Statement 3 is also incorrect, while AEO status provides various facilitations in customs procedures, it does not grant legal protection against customs and trade disputes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 40. Correct Answer is (C)

- All three statements correctly describe the responsibilities of FSSAI. The authority grants licenses to various types of food businesses, ensuring compliance with health and safety regulations. It regulates the use of food additives, providing guidelines on permissible substances and their acceptable limits to ensure consumer safety. Additionally, FSSAI is responsible for enforcing food safety laws across India to maintain high standards of food quality and safety.

## Environment

**Q.1) Consider the following statements:**

1. Cicadas are insects known for their spinning silk cocoons.
2. Cicada insects are predominantly found in tropical climates, including deserts, grasslands, and forests.
3. In India, the cicada inhabits the dense forests of the Garo Hills.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.2) With reference to the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary, consider the following statements:**

1. The river Tungabhadra separates the Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary into two parts.
2. Indian gour and giant squirrel are the keystone species in the sanctuary.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.3) The ozone hole is most severe over Antarctica, partly due to the formation of polar stratospheric clouds (PSCs). In which one of the following ways does PSCs contribute to ozone depletion?**

- a) They absorb Ultraviolet (UV) radiation, preventing it from breaking down ozone-depleting substances.
- b) They provide a surface for chemical reactions that break down ozone molecules.
- c) They reflect sunlight back into space, reducing the temperature in the stratosphere.
- d) They trap Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the lower atmosphere, preventing them from reaching the stratosphere.

**Q.4) Which one of the following is the primary objective of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement?**

- a) Establish a global free trade zone for environmentally friendly products.
- b) Set binding targets for greenhouse gas emissions reduction for all countries.
- c) Create a framework for voluntary climate change action plans by individual nations.
- d) Impose financial penalties on countries exceeding their carbon emission limits.

**Q.5) Which one of the following statements is correct regarding the 'Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve'?**

- a) It is the second-largest tiger reserve in India by area.
- b) It is located entirely within the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- c) It has the largest area designated as critical tiger habitat in India.
- d) The primary vegetation type found in the reserve is tropical rainforest.

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### Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. Nuclear energy presently constitutes only 1.6% of India's energy mix.
2. Solar energy installations in India have taken over the energy demand that was previously fulfilled by coal-fired power plants.

#### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.7) When analyzing the feeding habits of carnivorous species, which one of the following principles suggests that their ability to consume prey is restricted by the size of their mouth openings in relation to the size of the prey?

- a) Resource partitioning
- b) Predator-prey coevolution
- c) Gause's principle
- d) Gape limitation hypothesis

### Q.8) In which one of the following agricultural practices are trees integrated with agricultural crops to improve soil health, water management, and biodiversity, particularly in areas with limited rainfall?

- a) No-till farming
- b) Slash-and-burn agriculture
- c) Dryland agroforestry
- d) Hydroponics

### Q.9) Consider the following statements:

1. Despite renewable energy targets, coal-fired plants remain a primary source of electricity in India.
2. Increased heat can negatively affect crop yields and the productivity of agricultural workers.
3. Thermal Energy Storage (TES) and Hydrogen Energy Storage (HES) are the most commercially viable forms of energy storage in India.

#### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 1 and 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

### Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. In India, agriculture is an important source of livelihood for women, particularly in rural areas.
2. An increase in extreme weather events is associated with increased gender-based violence.
3. An increase in PM2.5 levels indicates an improvement in respiratory health.

#### Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3



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### Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. Approved List of Models and Manufacturers of Solar Photovoltaic [PV] Modules' (ALMM list) comprises manufacturers whose solar PV modules are eligible for use in various government projects and schemes.
2. India's half of the imports demand for solar cells and modules come from the United States.
3. The Indian government has set a target of achieving 500 GW of installed capacity from non-fossil fuels by 2030.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

### Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Ladakh is home to 97% indigenous tribes, with a lifestyle predominantly based on farming and animal rearing.
2. Ladakh is least affected by the climate change due to its high altitude.
3. National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) includes the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE), which is aimed at assessing and protecting the Himalayan region from climate change.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

### Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. Relocating wild animals disrupts both the original and the new ecosystems.
2. Rescue involves capturing animals and relocating them to completely different environments without considering their natural habitat or behavioral patterns.

### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.14) Consider the following statements:

1. India has lost 90% of the area under its four biodiversity hotspots.
2. Compensatory Afforestation Levy (CAL) is a financial method that evaluates the current worth of forest land based on its expected future economic benefits, such as timber and ecosystem services.
3. The Supreme Court has recently banned tiger safaris in core areas of national parks and called for the formation of a committee to assess their viability in peripheral zones.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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**Q.15) Ocean acidification, a consequence of increased atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>, disrupts coral reef ecosystems. Which one of the following aspects of coral life is primarily affected by ocean acidification?**

- a) Coral reproduction
- b) Coral growth rate
- c) Coral feeding behavior
- d) Coral immune response

**Q.16) Consider the following statements:**

**Statement-I:** The aviation industry accounts for only 2.5% of global carbon emissions.

**Statement-II:** The carbon content of aviation fuel used within the aviation industry is comparatively lower than the fuel used in the vehicles.

**Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?**

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

**Q.17) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. All terrestrial animals use tools to hunt for food or drink water.
- 2. Some fish species use tools to catch their prey.
- 3. Some species of sea urchins serve as agents of reef erosion by excavating deep burrows within the reef structure.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.18) Which one of the following is the primary factor that leads to 'coral bleaching' by disrupting the symbiotic relationship between corals and their algae, ultimately causing the expulsion of algae and bleaching of coral reefs?**

- a) Overfishing of coral reefs
- b) Pollution from industrial runoff
- c) Increased sea surface temperatures
- d) Acidification of ocean waters

**Q.19) With reference to the Green Credit Programme (GCP), consider the following statements:**

- 1. It is an initiative that encourages organizations and individuals to invest in afforestation projects on degraded forest lands to earn green credits.
- 2. Indian Council of Forestry Research and Education (ICFRE) is responsible for overseeing the program.
- 3. Green credits earned through GCP form the part of the Energy Conservation Act of 2001.
- 4. The credit earned can be used by companies to meet corporate social responsibility (CSR) requirements.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

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### Q.20) Consider the following statements:

1. Agroforestry is a farming method where trees or shrubs are grown alongside crops or livestock.
2. Planting trees at very high densities is one of the most important factors for ensuring the success of an agroforestry system.
3. Agroforestry is considered a sustainable land management practice because it can contribute to soil health and biodiversity in the long term.
4. Choosing the right species for the right place and the right reason is elemental for agroforestry.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

### Q.21) With reference to the Leaf Litter Frog (*Haddadus binotatus*), consider the following statements:

1. These frogs scream to defend themselves against predators.
2. They are classified as "Endangered" on the IUCN List of Threatened Species.

### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.22) Consider the following statements:

1. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has the power to handle cases related to only civil environmental disputes.
2. The maximum tenure of the Chairperson and other members of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is 3 years.
3. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a Constitutional body.
4. The Chairperson of the NGT is appointed by the Central Government in consultation with the Chief Justice of India.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

### Q.23) Consider the following statements with respect to the plant Ashwagandha:

1. Ashwagandha is an evergreen shrub found in parts of India, Africa, and the Middle East.
2. Ashwagandha has been used as a medicinal herb in Ayurvedic medicine for thousands of years.

### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

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**Q.24) Consider the following statements:**

1. Nicobar Megapodes are classified as perching birds.
2. Temperate forest is dominant in the Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.25) Consider the following statements:**

1. In India, solar and wind park development is currently subject to Environmental and Social Impact Assessments.
2. There is no established mechanism in India to ensure fair compensation for small and medium landowners leasing their land for renewable energy projects.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.26) Which one of the following terms is used to describe the practice of combining solar energy generation with traditional farming on the same land, allowing for dual land use and improved resource efficiency?**

- a) Agrivoltaics
- b) Agroforestry
- c) Agrobiotechnology
- d) Agroecology

**Q.27) Consider the following statements:**

1. India has achieved its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets of achieving 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources.
2. One of the core principles of the 'One Health initiative' is to promote the use of alternative medicine practices.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.28) With reference to the Nilgiri Tahr, which of the following statement(s) is/are correct?**

1. Silent Valley National Park is known for having the highest density and largest surviving population of Nilgiri Tahr.
2. The Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to northern part of the Western Ghats.
3. Habitat loss and poaching are the major threats to the Nilgiri Tahr population.

**Select the correct statements using the codes given below:**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

## 10 PM MCQs Compilation April 2024

**Q.29) Consider the following statements:**

1. According to the government's new policy, the import duty on Completely Built Unit (CBU) electric vehicles (EVs) will be substantially increased to safeguard the interests of domestic EV manufacturers.
2. Despite significant growth in the two- and three-wheeler segments, passenger vehicles have only seen a marginal contribution to the EV market.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.30) With reference to the National Board of Wildlife (NBWL), consider the following statements:**

1. The National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory body established under the Environment Protection Act, 1986.
2. The Prime Minister of India chairs the National Board of Wildlife.
3. Managing wildlife corridors between protected areas is one of the primary functions of NBWL.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 3 only

**Q.31) Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is often referred to as the 'Bharatpur of the East' due to its:**

- a) Large elephant population
- b) Extensive bird species diversity
- c) Dense tiger habitat
- d) Rich aquatic plant life

**Q.32) Consider the following statements regarding the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP):**

1. The primary objective of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is to combat climate change.
2. NCAP also focuses on reducing ambient air concentration of PM2.5 and PM10 particulate matter.
3. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) implement the NCAP strategy across India.
4. PRANA is the name of the national portal launched for the NCAP.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.33) Consider the following statements:**

1. The Green Credit Programme aims to incentivize environmental restoration through a market-based mechanism, where individuals and companies earn credits for contributing to environmental and ecological restoration.
2. Unlike green credits, various projects in a carbon market cannot be measured by their carbon savings.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2



## 10 PM MCQs Compilation April 2024

**Q.34) Consider the following locations:**

1. Eravikulam National Park
2. Anamalai Tiger Reserve
3. Kudremukh National Park
4. Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary

**How many of the above have significant populations of Nilgiri Tahr?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.35) With reference to initiatives against plastic pollution in India, consider the following statements:**

1. The Swachh Bharat Mission explicitly includes a directive for the reduction of plastic waste in urban and rural areas.
2. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued guidelines categorizing plastic waste management rules under hazardous waste categories.
3. 'Plastic Parks' are being developed to encourage the recycling of plastic waste into useful products.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.36) Which one of the following best describes the concept of 'Green Taxonomy'?**

- a) A classification system to identify sectors contributing to climate change.
- b) A method to evaluate corporate governance and economic development.
- c) A framework for defining environmentally sustainable investments.
- d) A legal mechanism for enforcing environmental regulations in industry.

**Q.37) Which of the following forest category is not specifically earmarked for conservation under strict governmental control?**

- a) Reserved Forests
- b) Protected Forests
- c) Unclassed Forests
- d) Open Forests

## Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (b)	3 - (b)	4 - (c)	5 - (c)	6 - (a)	7 - (d)	8 - (c)	9 - (b)	10 - (a)
11 - (b)	12 - (b)	13 - (a)	14 - (b)	15 - (b)	16 - (c)	17 - (b)	18 - (c)	19 - (c)	20 - (c)
21 - (a)	22 - (b)	23 - (c)	24 - (d)	25 - (b)	26 - (a)	27 - (a)	28 - (c)	29 - (b)	30 - (b)
31 - (b)	32 - (c)	33 - (a)	34 - (b)	35 - (c)	36 - (c)	37 - (c)			

## Answers & Explanations

### 1. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Cicadas do not spin silk cocoons; instead, they are known for their distinctive sound production and their unique life cycles.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Cicadas can be found in various tropical climates, including deserts, grasslands, and forests. They inhabit different regions worldwide, from temperate to tropical climates, with a higher diversity in tropical regions. The cicada inhabits the dense forests of the Garo Hills in Meghalaya, India. This was recently highlighted by the discovery of a new species of cicada, the Butterfly Cicada, which is localized in the Garo Hills and Ri-Bhoi districts, preferring thick forests and native vegetation.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 2. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The perennial river Dayyam Vagu flows through the sanctuary, separating the wildlife sanctuary into two parts. The river Godavari also passes through the sanctuary.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Eturnagaram Wildlife Sanctuary is home to several keystone species, and among them are the Indian gaur and giant squirrel. These species play critical roles in maintaining the ecosystem and are essential for conserving the biodiversity of the region.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 3. Correct Answer is (B)

- PSCs form during the extreme cold conditions in the polar regions, particularly in Antarctica. These clouds contain ice crystals that provide a surface for the chemical reactions that convert inert chlorine-containing compounds, such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), into more reactive forms. The reactive forms of chlorine can then catalyze the breakdown of ozone molecules, contributing to the ozone hole over Antarctica.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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### 4. Correct Answer is (C)

- The primary objective of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement is to provide a framework for individual nations to outline their voluntary climate change action plans. NDCs include each country's specific targets, policies, and measures to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 5. Correct Answer is (C)

- Nagarjunasagar-Srisailem Tiger Reserve (NSTR) is the largest tiger reserve in India, and it also has the largest area designated as "Critical Tiger Habitat" (CTH). This designation is crucial for the long-term conservation of tigers and their habitats. The primary vegetation type found in the reserve is tropical dry deciduous forest. Although the NSTR is located mainly within the state of Andhra Pradesh, it also extends into the neighboring states of Telangana and Karnataka.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Nuclear energy presently constitutes only a small portion of India's energy mix, accounting for around 1.6%. This is because India's energy sector is largely dominated by coal, oil, and natural gas.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Solar energy installations in India have not taken over the energy demand previously fulfilled by coal-fired power plants. Currently, figures from the Central Electricity Authority say solar energy accounts for 16% of India's installed generation capacity and coal 49%.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 7. Correct Answer is (D)

- The principle that suggests the ability of carnivorous species to consume prey is restricted by the size of their mouth openings in relation to the size of the prey is Gape limitation hypothesis. The Gape limitation hypothesis states that the size of a predator's mouth, or "gape," limits the size of prey they can consume. This hypothesis has implications for understanding feeding habits, prey selection, and niche partitioning among carnivorous species. According to this hypothesis, predators with smaller gape sizes will target smaller prey, while those with larger gape sizes can consume a broader range of prey sizes. Gape limitation can lead to evolutionary pressures on both predators and prey. Prey may evolve larger sizes or faster speeds to escape predators with smaller gape sizes. Conversely, predators may develop larger mouths or different hunting strategies to overcome gape limitations and access a broader range of prey.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 8. Correct Answer is (C)

- In Dryland agroforestry, trees are integrated with agricultural activities to improve soil health, water management, and biodiversity, particularly in areas with limited rainfall. Dryland agroforestry is a land management system that combines the cultivation of trees with agricultural crops or livestock in arid and semi-arid regions. This approach helps to minimize soil erosion, enhance soil fertility, and improve water availability by reducing evaporation and increasing infiltration. Trees in agroforestry systems can also provide shade, shelter, and food for both humans and animals, leading to increased biodiversity.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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### 9. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Despite ambitious renewable energy targets, coal-fired plants continue to be a primary source of electricity in India due to their ability to meet both peak and off-peak demands. Higher temperatures can adversely impact crop yields and reduce the productivity of agricultural workers, among other socio-economic and environmental challenges.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Battery-based storage and pumped hydro storage (PHS) are the most commercially viable forms of energy storage in India, but they are affected by water shortages during heatwaves.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 10. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 and 2 are correct. Agriculture plays a significant role in providing employment and income for women in India, especially in rural regions. Women are involved in various agricultural activities such as sowing, weeding, and harvesting, contributing substantially to the agricultural sector. Research has shown that climate-related disasters and extreme weather events can exacerbate gender-based violence. Factors such as displacement, economic stress, and disruption of social networks contribute to increased vulnerability and higher rates of violence against women.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. PM2.5 refers to fine particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less. An increase in PM2.5 levels leads to deteriorated air quality, which has adverse effects on respiratory health. Higher PM2.5 concentrations are associated with respiratory issues, such as asthma, bronchitis, and other lung-related problems.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 11. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The ALMM list is a directory of solar PV models and manufacturers that meet specific quality and performance criteria, making them eligible for government-backed solar power projects in India. India has committed to an ambitious goal of reaching 500 GW of installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030 as part of its efforts to tackle climate change and transition to cleaner energy sources.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. India heavily relies on imports to meet its demand for solar cells and modules, with China and Vietnam being the primary suppliers.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Ladakh is home to 97% indigenous tribes, many of whom lead simple pastoral lives and depend on farming and animal rearing for a livelihood. The NAPCC includes eight core missions, and one of them is the NMSHE, which focuses on the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable resource use, and building resilience to climate change in the Himalayan region, including Ladakh.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Ladakh, like many other regions, is affected by climate change despite its high altitude. The region is witnessing the impacts of climate change, including rising temperatures, increased frequency of extreme weather events, receding glaciers, and the threat of glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 13. Correct Answer is (A)

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- Statement 1 is correct. Relocating wild animals can lead to imbalances in both ecosystems, impacting food chains, species interactions, and overall ecosystem health.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Proper animal rescue should involve assessing the animal's natural habitat, dietary needs, and behavior patterns. Rescuing and relocating animals should prioritize environments that closely resemble their natural habitats and can meet their needs. In some cases, relocation may be necessary for the animal's well-being or survival, but responsible rescue efforts aim to minimize the negative impact of relocation on the animal and the ecosystems involved.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 14. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of Threatened Species monitors 1,212 animal species in India. In 2021, it found that 12% of them are endangered. According to a report of the Centre for Science and Environment in 2021, India has lost 90% of the area under its four biodiversity hotspots. The Supreme Court has recently banned tiger safaris in core areas of national parks and called for the formation of a committee to assess their viability in peripheral zones. It also disagreed with the 2019 guidelines of the National Tiger Conservation Authority permitting a tiger safari on the lines of a zoo in a national park. The court stressed that tigers should be sourced from the same landscape as where the safari is being conducted and not outside the tiger reserve.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Compensatory Afforestation Levy is a form of replacement cost imposed on those who divert forest land for non-forestry purposes. The primary aim of this levy is to compensate for the forest area lost by promoting afforestation activities elsewhere. Whereas, Net Present Value (NPV) is a financial method that evaluates the current worth of forest land based on its expected future economic benefits, such as timber, non-timber forest products, and other ecosystem services. It takes into account the time value of money and future cash flows associated with the forest resources.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Ocean acidification occurs when excess atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in seawater, leading to a decrease in pH levels. This change in water chemistry affects the ability of corals to build their calcium carbonate skeletons, which are essential for their structure and support. As acidification increases, the availability of carbonate ions (which corals use to build their skeletons) decreases, hindering the corals' ability to grow and maintain their skeletons. Consequently, the overall growth rate of corals is negatively impacted, and the reef ecosystem's ability to keep up with natural erosion and disturbances is diminished. While other aspects, such as reproduction, feeding behavior, and immune response, may also be affected by ocean acidification indirectly, the primary impact is on the growth rate of coral skeletons.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 16. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement-I is correct. According to various reports, including the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), aviation accounts for approximately 2-3% of global carbon emissions.
- Statement-II is incorrect. Jet fuel, the primary fuel source for airplanes, is a fossil fuel with a high carbon content. The low percentage is due to the fact that only about 10% of the world's population flies regularly.



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- **Note:** Even though aviation contributes a relatively small portion of global emissions, its impact is significant due to several factors: High Altitude Emissions: Airplane emissions occur at high altitudes, where they can have a more substantial warming effect compared to ground-level emissions and Contrails: Contrails, also known as vapor trails, are formed by water vapor from airplane exhaust condensing in the cold air at high altitudes. These contrails can trap heat and contribute to warming.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 17. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Not all terrestrial animals use tools to hunt for food or drink water. While some animals, such as primates, otters, and birds, have been observed using tools, many terrestrial animals rely on their physical attributes, cooperative hunting strategies, or other specialized behaviors to obtain food and water without the use of tools.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Several species of fish have been documented using tools to hunt and crack open shellfish, extract food that is out of reach, or clear an area for nesting. Sea urchins, such as the burrowing sea urchin (*Echinostrephus molaris*), have been noted for their role in reef erosion by digging deep burrows into the structure of a reef, which can weaken its overall framework.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 18. Correct Answer is (C)

- Corals live in a symbiotic relationship with tiny algae known as zooxanthellae, which provide them with color and food through photosynthesis. When sea surface temperatures rise, the heat stress causes the breakdown of this relationship. The corals expel the algae, leading to a loss of color (bleaching) and depriving the corals of their primary source of nutrients.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 19. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct. The GCP aims to promote afforestation efforts and compensate participants with green credits. The ICFRE, an autonomous council under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, is responsible for implementing the GCP. Green credits earned can be used to compensate for forest land diversion or to fulfill environmental, social, and corporate responsibility obligations.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Green credits are a separate program from the Energy Conservation Act of 2001. While they both promote environmental benefits, they function independently.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 20. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct. Agroforestry involves the integration of trees and shrubs into crop and animal farming systems to create environmental, economic, and social benefits. This method is widely recognized and practiced globally, combining agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, sustainable, and healthy land-use systems. Agroforestry is considered a sustainable land management practice as it enhances biodiversity, improves soil structure and fertility, and contributes to the overall health of the ecosystem. Selecting the appropriate species for specific locations and purposes is critical in agroforestry to ensure that the trees contribute positively to the system without causing undue competition for resources with crops or livestock.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Planting trees at very high densities is not necessarily a crucial factor for the success of agroforestry systems. Instead, the strategic selection and placement of trees play a more significant role in ensuring the productivity and sustainability of these systems.

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Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 21. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Leaf litter frogs (*Haddadus binotatus*) are known to emit ultrasonic screams when attacked by predators. These screams are too high-pitched for humans to hear, but serve as a defense mechanism against potential threats like bats, rodents, and small primates.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. According to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, *Haddadus binotatus* is classified as "Least Concern" (LC).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 22. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 4 are correct. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has jurisdiction over all civil cases where a substantial question relating to the environment is involved, including the enforcement of any legal rights related to the environment. It does not handle criminal cases. The Chairperson of the NGT is appointed by the Central Government of India after consultation with the Chief Justice of India, as per the provisions of the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.
- Statements 2 and 3 are incorrect. The maximum tenure of the Chairperson and other members of the National Green Tribunal (NGT) is 5 years. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is not a Constitutional body; it is a statutory body established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 23. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Ashwagandha is an evergreen shrub native to regions of India, Africa, and the Middle East. It thrives in arid and semi-arid climates and can be cultivated in these areas for medicinal or commercial purposes. Ashwagandha's scientific name is *Withania somnifera*, and it has been utilized as a key medicinal herb in Ayurveda, the traditional Indian system of medicine, for thousands of years. Ashwagandha is known for its adaptogenic properties, helping the body manage stress, anxiety, and fatigue, among other health benefits.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 24. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Nicobar Megapodes (IUCN status: Vulnerable) are not classified as perching birds. They belong to the family Megapodiidae, which includes ground-dwelling birds that are adapted to running rather than perching. These birds are known for their unique nesting behavior, which involves building large mounds of earth and vegetation to incubate their eggs using the heat generated from decomposition. They are endemic to Nicobar Islands. The Galathea Bay Wildlife Sanctuary is located on the island of Great Nicobar in the Nicobar Islands, which have a tropical climate. The dominant vegetation in this region is tropical rainforest.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 25. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. In India, solar and wind park development is currently exempt from Environmental and Social Impact Assessments. Solar and wind energy projects are not explicitly listed in the mandatory categories requiring Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) under the central EIA Notification 2006. However, some projects may still require EIA, depending upon the impact of the project but officially they are exempted.

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- Statement 2 is correct. There is no established mechanism to ensure fair compensation for small and medium landowners leasing their land for renewable energy projects in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 26. Correct Answer is (A)

- Agrivoltaics is a term used to describe the combination of solar energy generation with traditional farming on the same land. This approach allows for dual land use, where crops are grown underneath or between solar panels, leading to improved resource efficiency and potential benefits for both agriculture and energy production.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 27. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. India has achieved its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target of 40% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel sources by 2030, with 44% of its capacity coming from non-fossil fuel sources as of January 2024. It has also achieved another Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target, of reducing the emissions intensity of its GDP by 33% to 35% from 2005 level, well ahead of the target year of 2030.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The One Health initiative focuses on collaboration between different sectors of medicine and science, not promoting alternative medicine practices. Its core principle is recognizing the interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 28. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. Eravikulam National Park has the highest density and largest surviving population of Nilgiri Tahr. The Nilgiri Tahr is endemic to the southern part of the Western Ghats. Nilgiri Tahr is an ungulate that is endemic to the Nilgiri Hills and the southern portion of the Western and Eastern Ghats in the states of Tamil Nadu and Kerala in southern India. It is the only species in the genus Nilgiritragus. It is the state animal of Tamil Nadu. The IUCN status of the Nilgiri Tahr is Endangered.
- Statement 3 is correct. The major threats to the Nilgiri Tahr population are habitat loss mainly due to overgrazing of domestic livestock and the spread of invasive plants, illegal hunting, and climate change.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 29. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The government's new policy actually reduces the import duty on CBU electric vehicles. The import duty has been cut from 70%-100% to 15% for EVs valued at \$35,000 or more. However, this reduced duty is conditional; it applies to carmakers who commit to setting up local manufacturing units within three years. The policy aims to strike a balance between promoting domestic EV production and attracting foreign investment in the sector.
- Statement 2 is correct. The data from the sources indicate that while there has been significant growth in the two- and three-wheeler segments, the contribution of passenger vehicles to the overall EV market remains relatively low (2.2%).

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 30. Correct Answer is (B)

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- Statements 1 and 3 are incorrect. The National Board of Wildlife (NBWL) is a statutory body established under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The primary functions of NBWL include: 1) Framing policies and advising the central government on promoting conservation and development of wildlife and forests, 2) Making recommendations for the effective implementation of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, 3) Reviewing and approving projects in and around protected areas that may have an impact on wildlife and their habitats, 4) Advising on matters relating to the protection and management of wildlife and its habitats, including the establishment and management of sanctuaries and national parks. However, managing wildlife corridors between protected areas is not one of the primary functions of NBWL.
- Statement 2 is correct. The Prime Minister of India is the ex-officio chairperson of the National Board of Wildlife.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 31. Correct Answer is (B)

- The comparison to Bharatpur, also known as Keoladeo National Park, highlights the rich avifauna found in Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary. Much like Bharatpur, Pobitora is home to a wide variety of bird species, including many migratory birds, making it a popular destination for birdwatchers and ornithologists. Pobitora Wildlife Sanctuary is a wildlife sanctuary on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra River in Assam, India. It was declared a wildlife sanctuary in 1987 and covers 38.85 square kilometers. It is known for its high density of Indian rhinoceros, one of the largest populations in Assam.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 32. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The primary objective of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) is to improve air quality and reduce the concentration of particulate matter (PM) in the ambient air. While reducing greenhouse gas emissions can help improve air quality, the primary focus of NCAP is on PM reduction rather than combating climate change directly.
- Statements 2, 3 and 4 are correct. One of the main goals of the NCAP is to reduce the concentrations of particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>) in the air by 20-30% by 2024 compared to 2017 levels. The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) plays a key role in implementing the NCAP strategy across India, overseeing the execution and monitoring of various initiatives under the program. PRANA (Portal for Regulation of Air-pollution in Non-Attainment cities) is the national portal launched to support the implementation and monitoring of the NCAP.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 33. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. The Green Credit Programme (GCP) is designed as a market-based mechanism to incentivize voluntary environmental actions, including environmental and ecological restoration. Individuals, companies, and various organizations can earn credits for activities such as afforestation, water conservation, and other environment-positive actions.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Projects in a carbon market are specifically measured by their carbon savings. Carbon credits are issued based on the amount of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases that are reduced, avoided, or sequestered by these projects. However, in green credits, measuring the impact of one unit of water conservation versus one unit of ecosystem restoration is complex and lacks a common metric.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

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### 34. Correct Answer is (B)

- Significant populations of Nilgiri Tahr are found in Eravikulam National Park and Anamalai Tiger Reserve. These areas provide the montane grassland habitats necessary for the Nilgiri Tahr. In contrast, Kudremukh National Park and Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary, both located in Karnataka, do not have significant Nilgiri Tahr populations. These locations do not support the specific ecological conditions preferred by Nilgiri Tahrs, such as open montane grasslands at certain elevations, which are prevalent in parts of Tamil Nadu and Kerala but not in the ecological zones of Kudremukh and Bhadra.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 35. Correct Answer is (C)

- All statements are correct. The Swachh Bharat Mission includes initiatives to reduce plastic waste. The CPCB has indeed categorized some plastic waste management under hazardous waste rules to enforce stricter control measures. Additionally, the concept of 'Plastic Parks' is a part of India's approach to enhance the plastic recycling industry and manage plastic waste more effectively.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 36. Correct Answer is (C)

- Green taxonomy is primarily a framework that helps in defining what can be considered as environmentally sustainable investments. It classifies economic activities and assets based on their environmental sustainability, aiming to prevent greenwashing and encourage investments towards sustainable development.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 37. Correct Answer is (C)

- Unclassed forests are not specifically earmarked for conservation under strict governmental control, unlike reserved forests, which are permanently earmarked for conservation and where rights like grazing and cultivation are seldom allowed. Protected forests have some minor restrictions but allow rights like grazing and cultivation. Unclassed forests include a mix of inaccessible forests and privately owned lands, making them less regulated compared to reserved and protected forests.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

## Science & Technology

### Q.1) Consider the following statements:

1. Jupiter has the most moons in the Solar System.
2. Callisto is one of Jupiter's largest moons.
3. Callisto is primarily composed of water ice, rocky materials, sulphur dioxide, and some organic compounds.

### Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3



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### Q.2) Consider the following statements:

1. PRATUSH (Probing ReionizATIOn of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen) radio telescope will study the universe from the moon's far side.
2. Optical telescopes collect radio waves with the shortest wavelengths, while radio telescopes collect visible light at longer wavelengths.
3. The cosmic microwave background (CMB) is the leftover radiation from the Big Bang that fills the entire universe.
4. The early universe, underwent a period of the Dark Ages, which is characterized by the presence of the only star known as Methuselah star.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

### Q.3) Consider the following statements:

1. The human brain is divided into two hemispheres.
2. In most individuals, the left hemisphere of the brain is dominant for language, while the right hemisphere is dominant for visual attention tasks.

### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.4) Consider the following statements:

**Statement-I:** The median age for cancer diagnosis in India is lower than in the U.S.

**Statement-II:** India has a higher cancer screening rates compared to the U.S.

### Which one of the following is correct in respect of the above statements?

- a) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is the correct explanation for Statement-I
- b) Both Statement-I and Statement-II are correct and Statement-II is not the correct explanation for Statement-I
- c) Statement-I is correct but Statement-II is incorrect
- d) Statement-I is incorrect but Statement-II is correct

### Q.5) With reference to the Agni-Prime Ballistic Missile, consider the following statements:

1. It is a type of Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).
2. The missile adds to India's nuclear triad, which already consists of aircraft, submarines, and ballistic missiles with nuclear capability.
3. It uses a modern navigation system for increased accuracy.

### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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### Q.6) Consider the following statements:

1. The World Health Organization (WHO) has opposed antibiotics for both growth promotion and preventative use in poultry.
2. Escherichia coli (E. coli) can be spread via contaminated meat and other food products.

#### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.7) Consider the following statements:

1. Industrial alcohol is alcohol that is not meant for human consumption.
2. Currently, excise duty applies only on petroleum and liquor.

#### Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.8) Consider the following statements:

1. Kidney is the largest organ of the human body.
2. Melanin is the pigment responsible for skin color.
3. The adaptation of skin color, particularly lighter skin at higher latitudes, is linked to the body's need to produce vitamin D under lower ultraviolet (UV) exposure.

#### Which of the statements given above are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

### Q.9) Which one of the following techniques is used to investigate the three-dimensional structure of chromosomes in the nucleus?

- a) Polymerase chain reaction (PCR)
- b) Fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH)
- c) Chromatin immunoprecipitation (ChIP)
- d) Chromosome conformation capture (3C)

### Q.10) Consider the following statements:

1. Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) are responsible for over 60% of all deaths in India.
2. According to the 2011 Census, urban slums make up over 17% of India's metropolitan areas.
3. Health equity aims to provide every individual with an equal opportunity to reach their highest health potential, irrespective of their circumstances.
4. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India experience lower child mortality and higher immunisation rates.

#### How many of the statements given above are correct?

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

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### Q.11) Consider the following statements:

1. A semiconductor has properties between a conductor and an insulator.
2. In its purest form, a semiconductor is a very good conductor of electricity.
3. Electrical properties of semiconductor can be changed by adding small amounts of dopants.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

### Q.12) Consider the following statements:

1. Insulin Index measures how carbohydrate-containing foods affect blood glucose levels post-meal.
2. Diets high in glycemic index (GI) and glycemic load (GL) are associated with an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

### Q.13) Consider the following statements:

1. A genome refers to the complete set of genetic material present in an organism.
2. A gene is a specific sequence of DNA that contains the instructions for making a particular protein or functional RNA molecule.
3. Cells make proteins by transcribing the gene into messenger RNA (mRNA), which then guides the synthesis of the protein.

**How many of statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

### Q.14) Consider the following:

1. Extraction of gold and silver from their respective ores
2. Electroplating and the heat treatment of metals
3. Making insecticides

**In how many of the above areas is 'sodium cyanide' find application?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

## 10 PM MCQs Compilation April 2024

**Q.15) With reference to the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), how many of the following statements are correct?**

1. It acts as the nodal agency for disease surveillance and outbreak response in India.
2. It monitors trends in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and promotes responsible antibiotic use.
3. It functions under the administrative control of Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).

**Select the correct answer using the codes given below:**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.16) Consider the following statements:**

1. Telemedicine can help in the reduction of carbon emission.
2. Teleconsultations increases the disparity in healthcare access between rural and urban populations.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.17) Which one of the following best describes the 'Higgs boson's' main function in the particle physics?**

- a) It mediates the strong nuclear force.
- b) It gives mass to other fundamental particles.
- c) It is a building block of protons and neutrons.
- d) It is responsible for radioactive decay.

**Q.18) With reference to the Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, consider the following statements:**

1. It is a type of treatment that utilizes surgery to remove cancerous tissue.
2. T-cells are collected from the patient through a process called leukapheresis.
3. Segments of CAR are located both within and outside of cells, across the cell membrane.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.19) Consider the following statements:**

1. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have a target of eradicating malnutrition by 2030.
2. A significant factor in determining a child's risk of undernutrition is the mother's educational status.

**Which of the statements(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

## 10 PM MCQs Compilation April 2024

**Q.20) In which one of the following ways does PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) contribute to reducing space debris?**

- a) Through collecting and disposing of space debris
- b) By transforming into a satellite for long-term space exploration
- c) By de-orbiting and burning up in the earth's atmosphere after its mission
- d) Through repairing and servicing malfunctioning satellites

**Q.21) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. The Siachen Glacier is known as the world's second highest battlefield.
- 2. Operation Rakshak was a successful military operation undertaken by the Indian Army to seize control of the Siachen Glacier.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.22) Consider the following statements:**

- 1. A flat universe model implies that the space is two-dimensional, similar to a sheet of paper.
- 2. Lambda-Cold Dark Matter is one of the cosmological models that describes our universe's origin and evolution.
- 3. The cosmic microwave background (CMB) is considered one of the strongest pieces of evidence supporting the Big Bang theory.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.23) Which one of the following statements best describes the term 'Cryogenics'?**

- a) It is the study of how to achieve and maintain high temperatures for industrial combustion processes.
- b) It focuses on the development of refrigeration techniques that operate at temperatures just below the freezing point of water.
- c) It is primarily concerned with the study of biological organisms at temperatures slightly above freezing.
- d) It is the science that addresses the production and effects of very low temperatures.

**Q.24) The term 'Doxing', seen in the news recently, refers to:**

- a) The process of fixing documents online to ensure data privacy and prevent identity theft.
- b) A legal method of sharing someone's personal information with their consent for security purposes.
- c) The act of publicly revealing identifying information about someone online without their consent.
- d) The act of repairing or removing false personal information about individuals from the internet.



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**Q.25) Consider the following statements:**

1. Parkinson's disease is a chronic neurodegenerative disorder that affects the central nervous system, primarily impacting movement.
2. Parkinson's disease is mainly characterized by a deficiency of Norepinephrine in the brain.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.26) Which one of the following is the primary purpose of "Randomized Controlled Trial (RCT)", seen in the news recently?**

- a) Determine the cost-effectiveness of a treatment
- b) Evaluate the efficacy and safety of a treatment or intervention
- c) Assess the long-term side effects of a treatment
- d) Provide a historical overview of medical treatments

**Q.27) Which one of the following is the name of the engine technology used in the BrahMos missile?**

- a) Ramjet engine
- b) Turbofan engine
- c) Nuclear jet engine
- d) Pulse Detonation Engine (PDE)

**Q.28) Consider the following statements with respect to the avian influenza:**

1. The avian influenza virus is known to be transmissible to humans.
2. Mosquito bite is the primary mode of transmission for avian influenza in birds.
3. H5N1 is a highly pathogenic avian influenza strain.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.29) Consider the following statements:**

1. Genomic surveillance is crucial in understanding the evolutionary dynamics of viruses and their ability to adapt to different hosts.
2. Monkeypox (mpox) is an RNA virus.
3. Mpox can expand or contract its genome through gene duplication, mutation accumulation, or gene deletion.

**How many of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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**Q.30) Consider the following statements:**

1. In India, administrative allocation is the only method of allocating spectrum.
2. Spectrum allocation in India is a regulated process.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.31) Post-stroke depression (PSD) is a common complication after a stroke. Which one of the following statements is the most correct statement about PSD?**

- a) It is a temporary feeling of sadness that resolves on its own within a few weeks.
- b) It is a severe mental health condition requiring immediate hospitalization.
- c) It is a distinct clinical condition with specific symptoms that can be effectively treated.
- d) Only strokes affecting the right hemisphere of the brain can cause PSD.

**Q.32) With reference to the 3-D printing, consider the following statements:**

1. 3D-printed high-precision metal parts are used in various industries such as automobiles, aerospace, and defence.
2. 3D printing allows the production of metal parts with traditional tooling or fixturing setups.

**Which of the statement(s) given above is/are correct?**

- a) 1 only
- b) 2 only
- c) Both 1 and 2
- d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Q.33) Consider the following statements:**

1. Viruses that cannot transmit effectively are less of a concern for public health.
2. The primary mode of Zika virus transmission is through the bodily fluids such as saliva and semen.
3. Extracellular vesicles are small, fat-enclosed structures that transport substances within and outside cells.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.34) With reference to the metal mercury, consider the following statements:**

1. Mercury is used in fairness and anti-ageing creams.
2. Mercury is the only metal that is liquid at standard temperature and pressure (STP).
3. Mercury is known for its low electrical conductivity.

**Which of the statements given above are correct?**

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 and 3 only
- c) 1 and 3 only
- d) 1, 2 and 3

**Q.34) Which one of the following statements is NOT correct regarding the Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD)?**

- a) It is caused by an abnormal immune response in the digestive tract.
- b) It is contagious and can be spread from person to person.
- c) It can cause chronic inflammation and damage to the digestive tract.
- d) It can lead to symptoms like abdominal pain, diarrhea, and rectal bleeding.

**Q.36) Which one of the following best describes the primary action of antihistamines?**

- a) They increase the release of histamine from mast cells.
- b) They block the H1 receptor sites on cells, preventing histamine from attaching.
- c) They promote the synthesis of histamine in the immune system.
- d) They convert histamine into a less active form that does not cause allergic symptoms.

**Q.37) Consider the following statements regarding the deployment of language models:**

- 1. Small language models are typically faster to train than large language models.
- 2. Large language models generally require specialized hardware like GPUs or TPUs for efficient training and inference.
- 3. Small language models are more effective at handling niche tasks specific to certain industries.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

**Q.38) How many of the following statements correctly describe the impact of fairness creams containing mercury as mentioned in the article?**

- 1. Inhibiting melanin production, which lightens skin tone.
- 2. Psychological effects such as anxiety and depression.
- 3. Improve the skin's resistance to bacterial and fungal infections.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) None

**Q.39) With reference to the hazards associated with liquid nitrogen in food consumption, consider the following statements:**

- 1. Liquid nitrogen can cause frostbite-like injuries to the mouth, throat, and stomach if ingested before it fully evaporates.
- 2. Inhalation of vapor from liquid nitrogen can lead to unconsciousness or even be fatal due to the displacement of oxygen.
- 3. The use of liquid nitrogen is banned in all forms of cooking and food preservation across India.

**How many of the above statements are correct?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) All three
- d) None

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**Q.40) Which of the following offers scalable solutions to handle sudden spikes in viewer traffic, ensuring a smooth streaming experience?**

- a) Network as a Service (NaaS)
- b) Software as a Service (SaaS)
- c) Platform as a Service (PaaS)
- d) Infrastructure as a Service (IaaS)

**Q.41) Consider the following applications:**

- 1. Improved sleep quality
- 2. Accelerated learning
- 3. Enhanced athletic performance
- 4. Augmented immune function

**How many of the above applications are potentially enhanced by biohacking practices?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

**Q.42) Consider the following aircraft carriers:**

- 1. INS Vikramaditya
- 2. INS Vikrant
- 3. INS Viraat
- 4. INS Vishal

**How many of the above are currently active and indigenously built aircraft carriers in the Indian Navy?**

- a) Only one
- b) Only two
- c) Only three
- d) All four

### Answer Key

1 - (b)	2 - (b)	3 - (c)	4 - (c)	5 - (b)	6 - (c)	7 - (c)	8 - (b)	9 - (d)
10 - (c)	11 - (c)	12 - (b)	13 - (c)	14 - (c)	15 - (b)	16 - (a)	17 - (b)	18 - (b)
19 - (c)	20 - (c)	21 - (d)	22 - (b)	23 - (d)	24 - (c)	25 - (a)	26 - (b)	27 - (a)
28 - (c)	29 - (b)	30 - (b)	31 - (c)	32 - (a)	33 - (c)	34 - (a)	35 - (b)	36 - (b)
37 - (b)	38 - (b)	39 - (b)	40 - (a)	41 - (d)	42 - (a)			

## Answers & Explanations

**1. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Saturn, with 146 moons, has the most moons of any planet in our solar system. Saturn's moons range in size, with some larger than the planet Mercury.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Callisto is one of the four Galilean moons of Jupiter (along with Io, Europa, and Ganymede). It's the second largest of Jupiter's moons and the third largest moon in the Solar System. Callisto is primarily composed of water ice, rocky materials, sulphur dioxide, and some organic compounds.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**2. Correct Answer is (B)**

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The PRATUSH (Probing ReionizATIion of the Universe using Signal from Hydrogen) radio telescope is a proposed Indian telescope planned to study the universe from the far side of the moon. It aims to study the formation and evolution of stars and galaxies during the universe's earliest periods. The cosmic microwave background (CMB) is the leftover radiation from the Big Bang that fills the entire universe. The CMB is a faint, uniform glow seen in all directions that serves as evidence for the Big Bang.
- Statements 2 and 4 are incorrect. Optical telescopes collect visible light at longer wavelengths and radio telescopes collect radio waves with the shortest wavelengths. The Dark Ages occurred before the formation of any stars. The Methuselah star is one of the oldest known stars, but it formed much later, after the Dark Ages ended. During the Dark Ages, the universe was filled with neutral hydrogen gas that blocked the transmission of visible light, leading to an absence of observable stars.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**3. Correct Answer is (C)**

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The human brain is divided into two hemispheres, the left hemisphere and the right hemisphere. These two hemispheres are connected by a bundle of nerve fibers called the corpus callosum, which enables communication between them. In the majority of individuals, the left hemisphere of the brain is dominant for language-related tasks, such as language comprehension and speech production. Whereas, the right hemisphere is typically dominant for visual attention tasks and spatial processing, as well as other functions like facial recognition and understanding emotional cues.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

**4. Correct Answer is (C)**

- Statement I is correct. As per a recent report, the median age for cancer diagnosis in India is lower than that in the U.S., U.K., and China. For instance, the average age of diagnosis for breast cancer in India is 52, compared to 63 in the U.S. and the U.K. For lung cancer, the median age in India is 59, while it is around 70 in the West.
- Statement II is incorrect. India has lower cancer screening rates compared to the U.S. This is due to several factors, including lack of awareness, limited access to healthcare facilities, and financial constraints. While the screening rate for breast cancer is between 74% to 82% in the U.S., only 1.9% are screened in India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)



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### 5. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Agni-Prime Ballistic Missile is a medium-range ballistic missile (MRBM), not an Intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). Its range is estimated to be between 1,000 to 2,000 kilometers.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The Agni-Prime missile adds to India's nuclear triad, which includes land-based missiles, aircraft, and submarines capable of delivering nuclear warheads. It strengthens India's strategic capabilities and contributes to the country's deterrence capabilities. The Agni-Prime missile is equipped with a modern navigation system that enhances its accuracy, allowing it to strike targets with greater precision. This advanced technology helps make Agni-Prime an essential addition to India's missile arsenal.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 6. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The WHO has advised against the use of antibiotics for growth promotion and preventative purposes in the poultry industry due to the potential development of antimicrobial resistance. They recommend that antibiotics should only be used to treat sick animals or control confirmed infectious diseases in accordance with veterinary supervision. The overuse of antibiotics on farms around the world has led to the spread of drug-resistant food-borne pathogens, including Salmonella, Escherichia coli, and Campylobacter, which can be spread via contaminated meat and other food products.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 7. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Industrial alcohol, also known as denatured alcohol or methylated spirits, is ethanol that has additives to make it non-potable or unsuitable for human consumption. It is primarily used in industrial applications, such as solvents, fuel, and as an ingredient in the production of various chemicals and products. Currently, excise duty applies only on petroleum and liquor. After the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax (GST), many types of excise duty were subsumed, but excise duty continues to apply to petroleum and alcoholic beverages that are not covered by GST.

Source: [Forum IAS](#)

### 8. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. The skin is the largest organ in the human body in terms of both surface area and weight. The liver is the second largest organ. The kidneys, though important for filtering waste and maintaining fluid balance, are not the largest organs in the body.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Melanin is a natural pigment produced by cells called melanocytes, which are found in the skin, hair, and eyes. The amount and distribution of melanin determine an individual's skin color, with higher concentrations resulting in darker skin tones. Skin color adaptation is influenced by several factors, including the body's requirement for vitamin D synthesis. In regions with lower UV radiation, such as higher latitudes, lighter skin allows for more efficient absorption of sunlight to produce vitamin D. Conversely, in areas with higher UV radiation, darker skin provides natural protection against the harmful effects of excessive sun exposure.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 9. Correct Answer is (D)

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- The technique used to investigate the three-dimensional structure of chromosomes in the nucleus is chromosome conformation capture (3C). Chromosome conformation capture (3C) is a molecular biology technique used to analyze the spatial organization of chromatin in a cell's nucleus. It allows researchers to identify the physical interactions between different genomic regions, providing insights into the three-dimensional structure of chromosomes. 3C works by cross-linking DNA segments that are in close proximity, followed by fragmentation, ligation, and high-throughput sequencing of these cross-linked segments.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 10. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. Non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases contribute to a significant proportion of mortality in India. According to the World Health Organization, NCDs account for around 60% of total deaths in the country. The 2011 Census of India reported that approximately 17% of the urban population in India lived in slums. Health equity focuses on ensuring fair and equal access to healthcare and opportunities for all individuals, regardless of social, economic, or demographic factors. It emphasizes the importance of addressing disparities to promote overall health and wellbeing.
- Statement 4 is incorrect. In India, Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) generally experience higher child mortality rates and lower immunization coverage compared to other population groups. Studies show that social determinants, including caste, have a significant impact on health outcomes and access to healthcare services.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 11. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. A semiconductor has properties between a conductor and an insulator. A semiconductor is a material that has electrical conductivity value falling between that of a conductor, such as copper, and an insulator, such as glass. Its resistivity generally falls as its temperature rises. Dopants are impurities intentionally added to a semiconductor material to modify its electrical properties. By introducing controlled amounts of dopants, the conductivity and other properties of the semiconductor can be altered to suit various applications, such as transistors, diodes, and solar cells.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. In its purest form, a semiconductor is a very weak conductor of electricity.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 12. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. Glycemic index (GI) measures how carbohydrate-containing foods affect blood glucose levels post-meal, with higher values indicating greater blood sugar spikes. Glycemic load (GL) combines the quality and quantity of carbohydrates in food, calculated as the product of GI and the amount of carbohydrates in a serving.
- Statement 2 is correct. An international study published in the Lancet found that diets high in GI and GL are associated with an increased risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 13. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The genome is the entirety of an organism's genetic material, which includes all the DNA (or RNA in some viruses) that carries the instructions for the organism's development, growth, reproduction, and other essential functions. A gene is a distinct segment of

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DNA that codes for a specific protein or functional RNA molecule. Genes serve as the basic functional units of heredity, and their expression determines an organism's characteristics. The process of protein synthesis involves two main steps: transcription and translation. In transcription, the DNA sequence of a gene is copied into a messenger RNA (mRNA) molecule. This mRNA molecule then acts as a template during the translation process, guiding the assembly of amino acids to form the corresponding protein.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 14. Correct Answer is (C)

- Sodium cyanide (NaCN) is a chemical compound that has multiple applications in various industries. It is used in the extraction of gold and silver from their respective ores, in electroplating and the heat treatment of metals, and in making insecticides, dyes, pigments, and bulk drugs, etc.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 15. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) serves as the primary agency responsible for disease surveillance and coordinating outbreak response efforts in India. NCDC plays a crucial role in monitoring antimicrobial resistance (AMR) trends and developing strategies to promote the responsible use of antibiotics to combat the growing threat of antibiotic resistance.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. The NCDC functions under the administrative control of the Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 16. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Telemedicine allows patients to consult with doctors remotely, reducing the need for transportation to and from healthcare facilities. This reduction in travel can lead to decreased carbon emissions, contributing positively to the environment.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Telemedicine and teleconsultations can help bridge the gap in healthcare access between rural populations and urban-based doctors. By allowing remote consultations and access to specialists, telemedicine can improve healthcare equity by bringing medical services to underserved areas, reducing the disparity between urban and rural populations.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 17. Correct Answer is (B)

- The Higgs boson is an elementary particle in the Standard Model of particle physics. Its primary function is to give mass to other fundamental particles through its interaction with the Higgs field. This interaction results in the fundamental particles acquiring their characteristic masses, with different particles interacting with the Higgs field to varying degrees.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 18. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. CAR T-cell therapy is not a surgical treatment but a type of immunotherapy where a patient's T cells are genetically modified in the laboratory to attack cancer cells.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. In CAR T-cell therapy, T-cells are collected from the patient's blood through a process called leukapheresis, where white blood cells are separated from other blood components. Segments of CAR are located both within and outside of cells, spanning across the cell

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membrane. The external segment is responsible for binding to antigens on cancer cells, while the internal segment transmits signals that activate the T cells.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 19. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The UN SDGs, specifically SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), aim to end all forms of malnutrition by 2030, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies, and overweight/obesity. A mother's educational status can influence her knowledge about proper nutrition and childcare practices, which in turn affects the child's nutritional status. Studies have shown that children of mothers with higher education levels tend to have better nutritional outcomes compared to those with lower education levels.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 20. Correct Answer is (C)

- PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3) was the fourth stage of a PSLV rocket that was converted into a functional platform after deploying its satellites. Traditionally, these rocket stages end up as space debris after they complete their primary function. POEM-3, however, was designed to re-enter Earth's atmosphere at the end of its mission. This controlled re-entry resulted in the module burning up completely, eliminating the possibility of it adding to the growing problem of space debris.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 21. Correct Answer is (D)

- Statements 1 and 2 are incorrect. The Siachen Glacier is known as the world's highest battlefield. Operation Meghdoot was a successful military operation undertaken by the Indian Army to seize control of the Siachen Glacier in Ladakh, India.

Source: [The Times of India](#)

### 22. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. A flat universe model refers to the curvature of spacetime, not the number of dimensions. This model proposes that while the universe will expand forever, the rate of expansion will gradually decrease due to gravitational forces.
- Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Lambda-Cold Dark Matter ( $\Lambda$ CDM) is the most widely accepted cosmological model. It incorporates dark matter, dark energy, and cold dark matter to explain the universe's origin, expansion, and structure formation. The Cosmic Microwave Background Radiation (CMB) is faint radiation filling the universe, believed to be a leftover afterglow from the Big Bang. The CMB's properties strongly support the Big Bang theory, as its uniformity and temperature fluctuations align with predictions from the early hot, dense universe.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 23. Correct Answer is (D)

- Cryogenics is the branch of physics and engineering that studies the behavior of materials and systems at extremely low temperatures, typically below  $-150^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-238^{\circ}\text{F}$ ) or 123K (Kelvin). This field focuses on understanding how these low temperatures affect various substances and their properties and developing methods to produce, maintain, and apply such low temperatures in practical applications. While refrigeration involves cooling materials to temperatures below the freezing point

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of water (0°C or 273K), cryogenics focuses on much lower temperatures beyond what refrigeration typically achieves.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 24. Correct Answer is (C)

- Doxing (sometimes spelled as "doxxing") is a malicious practice where an individual's personal information, such as their name, address, phone number, or other private details, is shared online without their consent. This can result in harassment, threats, or other negative consequences for the targeted person. Doxing is often associated with cyberbullying and online vigilantism, and it raises significant concerns regarding privacy and online safety.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 25. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. Parkinson's disease is a progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects movement, often causing tremors, stiffness, and difficulty with balance and coordination. It is a chronic condition, which means it persists over a long period, and neurodegenerative, meaning it involves the gradual degeneration of neurons in the brain.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Parkinson's disease is primarily characterized by a deficiency of dopamine, not norepinephrine, in the brain. Dopamine is a neurotransmitter responsible for transmitting signals between nerve cells in the brain, and its depletion results in the motor symptoms observed in Parkinson's patients.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 26. Correct Answer is (B)

- Randomized Controlled Trials are considered the gold standard in clinical research for evaluating the effectiveness and safety of a particular treatment or intervention. In an RCT, participants are randomly assigned to either receive the treatment being studied or a control treatment (usually the standard treatment or a placebo). The outcomes of the participants in both groups are then compared to assess the efficacy and safety of the new treatment or intervention.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 27. Correct Answer is (A)

- The BrahMos missile uses a ramjet engine, which is a type of air-breathing jet engine that compresses the incoming air using the forward motion of the engine itself. The engine provides high speed and efficiency, allowing the BrahMos missile to travel at supersonic speeds, typically between Mach 2.5 to 2.8. Moreover, there have been discussions and plans to develop a newer version of the BrahMos missile, known as BrahMos-II or BrahMos Mark II, which is intended to utilize a scramjet engine.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 28. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Avian influenza viruses, such as H5N1 and H7N9, have been known to infect humans, primarily through direct or indirect contact with infected birds or contaminated environments. H5N1 is a highly pathogenic avian influenza strain that has caused significant outbreaks in poultry and has infected humans with a high mortality rate.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary mode of transmission for avian influenza in birds is not through mosquito bites. It is typically spread through direct contact with infected birds, their



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droppings, or secretions from their noses, mouths, or eyes. It can also spread indirectly through contaminated surfaces.

Sources: [The Hindu](#)

### 29. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Genomic surveillance plays a vital role in tracking the genetic changes and evolutionary patterns of viruses, allowing researchers to identify emerging strains, monitor transmission dynamics, and detect potential adaptations to new hosts. By studying viral genomes, scientists can develop strategies for prevention, control, and treatment. Like other viruses, mpox can undergo genetic changes through various mechanisms, such as gene duplication, mutation accumulation, or gene deletion. These changes can result in variations in the virus's genome, potentially affecting its virulence, host range, or transmission dynamics. Understanding these genomic changes is essential for monitoring the evolution of mpox and other viruses and developing effective strategies to control their spread.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. Monkeypox (mpox) is a DNA virus, not an RNA virus. It belongs to the Poxviridae family and the Orthopoxvirus genus, which includes other poxviruses such as smallpox (variola virus) and cowpox virus. Mpox has a double-stranded DNA genome.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 30. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statement 1 is incorrect. In India, spectrum allocation is not only done through administrative allocation. Auctions have become the primary method for allocating spectrum for mobile services. The 2012 2G spectrum case judgment by the Supreme Court held that the allocation of spectrum, being a scarce natural resource, must be done through auctions. However, the government considers administrative allocation of spectrum to ensure it is available for public interest functions such as security, safety, and disaster preparedness, where auctions may not be optimal.
- Statement 2 is correct. Spectrum allocation in India is a regulated process overseen by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT) and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI). This ensures fair and efficient use of this limited resource.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 31. Correct Answer is (C)

- Post-stroke depression is a common and serious complication following a stroke. It is a distinct clinical condition with a specific set of symptoms, including sadness, loss of interest in activities, changes in appetite, and difficulty concentrating, among others. Early recognition and proper treatment of PSD can significantly improve the quality of life for stroke survivors. Treatment may involve medications, psychotherapy, or a combination of both.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 32. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statement 1 is correct. 3D-printed high-precision metal parts are used in various industries, including automobiles, aerospace, and defense. These industries benefit from the ability to produce complex geometries, lightweight components, and functional prototypes using 3D printing technologies.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. 3D printing enables the production of metal parts without the need for traditional tooling or fixturing setups. This is one of the key advantages of 3D printing, as it allows

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for the creation of complex parts without the additional costs and time associated with creating custom tooling.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 33. Correct Answer is (C)

- Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Viruses that cannot transmit effectively pose a lower threat to public health as they can't easily spread and infect large populations. Extracellular vesicles are small, fat-enclosed structures that transport substances within and outside cells. These vesicles are rich in PS proteins and are found in high concentrations in saliva and semen, but not in blood. They compete with viruses for the PS receptors, effectively blocking the viruses from infecting cells.
- Statement 2 is incorrect. The primary mode of Zika virus transmission is not through bodily fluids like saliva and semen. While Zika can be present in these fluids, it's spread mainly by mosquito bites.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 34. Correct Answer is (A)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Mercury, in the form of mercury salts, is used in some skin-lightening and anti-ageing creams because it can inhibit the formation of melanin, leading to a lighter skin tone. Mercury is the only metal that remains liquid at standard room temperature and pressure. This unique property makes it useful in some thermometers and other specific applications.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. Mercury is actually a good conductor of electricity. It is used in some electrical switches and certain types of lighting due to this property.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 35. Correct Answer is (B)

- IBD is not contagious and cannot be spread from person to person. It is a group of chronic inflammatory conditions that affect the digestive tract, primarily consisting of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 36. Correct Answer is (B)

- Antihistamines work primarily by blocking the action of histamine at the H1 receptor sites on cells, thereby preventing the histamine from triggering allergic response symptoms such as itching, swelling, and mucus production. This action helps alleviate symptoms associated with allergies.

### 37. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Small language models indeed require less time and resources to train due to their smaller size and complexity. Large language models often require specialized hardware such as GPUs or TPUs to manage their computational demands efficiently. Statement 3 is incorrect; while small language models can be optimized for specific tasks, large language models generally surpass them in effectiveness due to their broader training data and superior generalization capabilities.

Source: [The Indian Express](#)

### 38. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The mercury in fairness creams inhibits melanin production, effectively lightening the skin, and can lead to psychological effects due to its systemic toxicity.

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Statement 3 is incorrect as the article notes that these creams actually reduce the skin's resistance to infections.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 39. Correct Answer is (B)

- Statements 1 and 2 are correct, highlighting the severe risks of using liquid nitrogen in food preparation, including potential frostbite-like injuries and risks of suffocation from vapor inhalation.
- Statement 3 is incorrect. liquid nitrogen is not banned in all cooking and food preservation practices but is restricted to ensure it evaporates fully before consumption and is used safely.

### 40. Correct Answer is (A)

- NaaS offers scalable solutions to handle sudden spikes in viewer traffic, ensuring a smooth streaming experience. This characteristic of NaaS is critical as it supports dynamic demand management and protects sensitive information across various digital platforms.

Source: [Financial Express](#)

### 41. Correct Answer is (D)

- Red-light therapy and intermittent fasting are biohacking practices known for their broad benefits, which include improved sleep quality due to the regulation of circadian rhythms, accelerated learning through enhanced neuronal function, enhanced athletic performance by improving cellular energy production, and augmented immune function through metabolic and cellular health optimization.

Source: [The Hindu](#)

### 42. Correct Answer is (A)

- As of the latest updates, only INS Vikrant is both active and indigenously built. INS Vikramaditya was purchased from Russia and refitted for the Indian Navy, INS Viraat was decommissioned in 2017 and was originally acquired from the UK, and INS Vishal is a planned aircraft carrier, not yet built or commissioned.